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Flowering Times and Flower Colours in the Flora of Greece

By

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With 2 figures

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Summary

DIAMANTOPOULOS J. G. & MARGARIS N. S. 1981. Flowering times and flower colours in the flora of Greece. — *Phyton (Austria)* 21 (2): 241—244, 2 figures. — English with German summary.

Flowering times and flower colours in the Greek flora are evaluated. The main flowering time is May and the most common colors are white and yellow.

Zusammenfassung

DIAMANTOPOULOS J. G. & MARGARIS N. S. 1981. Blütezeiten und Blütenfarben in der Flora Griechenlands. — *Phyton (Austria)* 21 (2): 241—244, 2 Abbildungen. — Englisch mit deutscher Zusammenfassung.

Blütezeiten und die Prozentanteile der Blütenfarben in der griechischen Flora wurden ermittelt. Hauptblütezeit ist der Mai, am häufigsten sind weiße und gelbe Farben.

In Fig. 1, are shown results for the percentage of plant species flowering each month in three regions with mediterranean climate i. e. Greece, Israel and California. In the same figure are shown data for the whole Balkan peninsula. From it, the following conclusions can be drawn;

1. May is the month with the greatest number of plant species flowering, both in Greece and California.

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2. In Israel, a country at lower latitude, the maximum is observed in April.

3. In the Balkan peninsula, taken as a whole, and situated consequently at higher latitude than Greece, the maximum is observed in June.

Figure 1 shows that, in Greece, only 10% of the plant species are in flower during November, December, January and February. However, in March, April and May there is an increased percentage of plant species

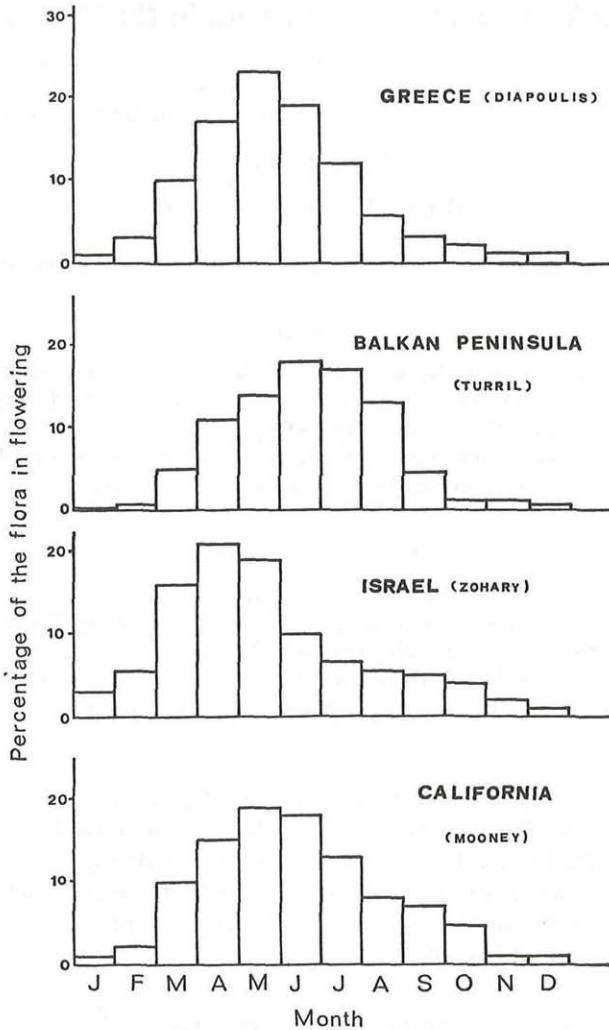


Fig. 1. Flowering activity in four regions with mediterranean climate. Data from DIAPOULIS 1947, TURRIL 1929, ZOHARY 1962 and MOONEY & al. 1974

flowering. During the next months (June, July, August, September and October) the percentage of plant species in flower constantly decreases.

In Fig. 2, data are presented concerning the percentage of plant species flowering, in Southern Greece and on the mountains. The transposition of the maximum in mountain flora is evident.

Our information on the flower colours was derived only from the keys we used (DIAPOULIS 1947). Since slight colour differences are expressed by many different terms thus perplexing the whole situation we considered

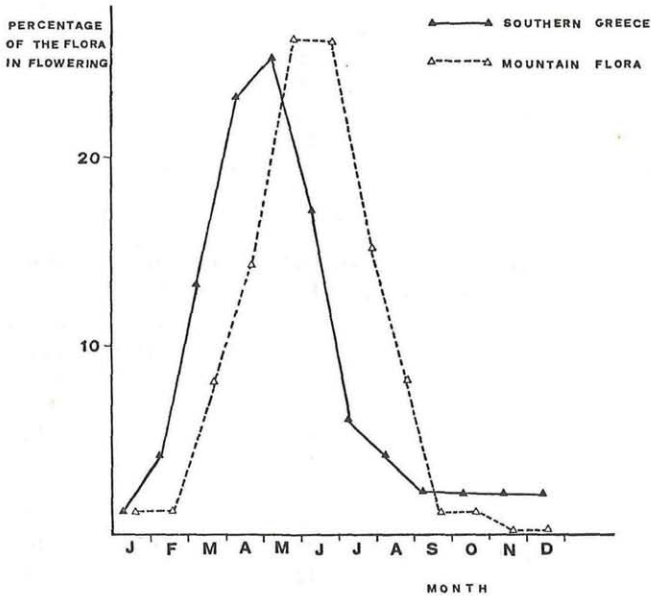


Fig. 2. The difference in the season of maximum flowering activity in Southern Greece and on the mountains. Data from DIAPOUKIS 1947

that it was better to classify all colours into categories, i. e. white, pale white, violet, blue, green, yellow and red.

Flowers with white or yellow colour taken together make over 50% of the total (Table 1). Plant species with red flowers are 11% of the total.

In the same table, data are given separately for the 900 most common plant species; it can be seen in this case too, that white and yellow colours predominate again (27% and 33% respectively).

The percentage contribution of the seven colours in Southern Greece and on the mountains is given in Table 2. In the mountain flora the percentage of plant species with white flowers is greater than that in southern Greece. In arctic regions a similar phenomenon was observed (see KEBAN 1978: 65, 72 for discussion).

Table 1

The percentages for each colour of the Greek plants and the respective percentages of the dominant ones. Data from POLUNIN 1972

Colour	Percentage of plant species	Percentage of the most common plant species
White	26	27
Pale white	13	10
Violet	10	15
Blue	9	7
Green	3	0
Yellow	27	33
Red	11	7

Table 2

The percentages for each colour for the southern Greece and the Greek mountain flora. Data from DIAPOULIS 1947

Colour	Southern Greece	Greek Mountain Flora
White	23	34
Pale white	17	14
Violet	17	14
Blue	8	7
Green	3	5
Yellow	21	19
Red	12	8

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