

# MONITORING OF FRUIT CROP WILD RELATIVES IN ALBANIA

Çarka, F.<sup>1</sup>, Çiçi, I.<sup>1</sup>, Ferraj, B.<sup>1</sup>, Vorpsi, V.<sup>2</sup>, Ismaili, H.<sup>1</sup> and Sevo, R.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Fruit Trees Institute, Vlora, Albania

<sup>2</sup>Agronomi Department, Agricultural University, Tirana, Albania



Prunica granatum L.

Ziziphus jujuba Mill



Castenea



Pyrus communis L

Albania extends from 39°38' to 42° 39' North latitude and from 19° 16'to 21° 04' East longitude. It's surface is small (28 000 km<sup>2</sup> ), even to this country has a large biodiversity related to geomorphology , climatic variability and history. The fruit crop wild relatives are an important part of this biodiversity. Although, for a long time a large number of specialist have worked to conservate and to demonstrate the importance of fruit crop wild germoplasm, the erosion is present and it is related to demografic and agricultural practices changes. For this main reason, our institute have undertaken this project with objectives:

1. Investigation and exploration of fruit crop wild relatives.
2. Characterization and conservation of fruit crop wild relatives.

## Material and method

The work had started since 1999 with expedites aiming at investigating and exploiting the fruit crop wild relatives and it has lasted until now. Every explored zone is described topographically , elevation and type of spontaneous plants. A servey of the density of plants explored is made and they are characterized by minimal list descriptors. The main candidates explored were collected and are under conservation at Fruit Trees Institute of Vlora.

## Results

During 1999-2005 period the organized expeditions carried out the exploration and characterization of numerous wild relatives of stone and pome fruits, nutfruits, pomegranate , fig, grapevines, olives and small fruits. A list of 62 candidates concerning 17 species such as Malus sylvestris Mill, Pyrus communis L., Pyrus agmidalisformis Villahs, Sorbus domestica L., Prunus cerasifera Ehrh., Prunus spinoza L., Cerasium avium L., Cornus mas L., Celtis australis, Fragaria vesca L., Rubus ideaus L., Arbustus vulgaris Bub., Ficus carica L., Castenea sativa Mill, Prunica granatum L. ,Corylus avelana L., Vitis vinifera L. ssp. Sylvestris Gmel., Olea oleaster Hofm. Link., were considered worth to conservate. They were collected and deposited at Vlora Fruit Trees Institute.

Arbustus vulgaris Bub



Fragaria vesca L



Malus sylvestris Mill



Carasus mahaleb



Sorbus domestica L

