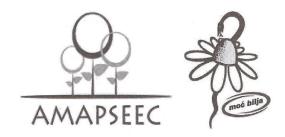
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HEAVY METALS CONTENT IN VACCINIUM SPECIES FROM SOME REGIONS IN SERBIA

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In this paper heavy metal contents in *Vacciniuim* species and soils from several localities in Serbia are presented. From literature it is know that some species from *Vaccinium* genus are tolerant of high concentrations of heavy metals in the soil and it is concerned that they are hyperaccumulators of some heavy metals. This ability to inhabit soils with high concentrations of these metals makes some *Vaccinium* species very favorable to use in certain phyto-remediation and revegetation programs.

We examined the zinc (Zn), lead (Pb), cadmium (Cd), nickel (Ni) and chromium (Cr) contents in vegetative parts of *V. myrtillus*, *V. uliginosum* and *V. vitis-idaea* from unpolluted soils. Plant material was collected from several parts in Serbia: Kopaonik Mt., Divčibare, Kamena Gora, Vlasinska visoravan and Stara planina Mt. For the analyses of heavy metal contents, the vegetative parts of plants were air-dried at room temperature and smashed. Soil samples were, also air-dried at 30°C. The heavy metal contents in soil and plant material were measured using method of Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometry (AAS).

Measured heavy metal concentrations in the soil were within the natural concentrations, except in the case of chromium and nickel in the soil of Divčibare. In the plants, the highest concentration of Pb, Ni and Cr are measured in vegetative organs of *V. myrtillus* from Divčibare. Also, measured concentracion of Pb, Ni and Cr are high in vegetative parts of *V. uliginosum*. The highest concentration of Zn and Cd are measured in vegetative parts of *V. uliginosum*. At the localities where all three species were collected, the highest concentrations of heavy metals are measured in vegetative parts of *V. uliginosum*.

Keywords: Vaccinium species, vegetative parts, soil, heavy metal, phytoremediation.

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