

# Diversity of Flora of the Pshavi, Tusheti and Khevsureti (SE and NE part of the Greater Caucasus)

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This abstract presents the results of systematic, chorological and ecopathological studies of the diversity of the Flora of Pshavi, Tusheti and Khevsureti (SE and NE Part of Greater Caucasus). It is based on field investigation and on literature research. 1202 species of Vascular Plants, 434 genera and 103 families were recorded in the montane, subalpine, alpine and subnival belt of the Tush-Pshav Khevsureti within a range of 1000(1200)- 3500(4000) m a.s.l. Among these 236 species or 19,6% are common endemics of the Greater Caucasus and Caucasus. In the region the floristically most interesting part are the Tusheti and N Khevsureti (north part of the east Caucasus).

The leading families are *Asteraceae* (170 species), *Poaceae* (79 species), *Scrophulariaceae* (65 species) *Caryophyllaceae*, *Fabaceae* (each 63 species), *Brassicaceae* (62 species), *Rosaceae* (61 species), *Apiaceae*, *Cyperaceae* (each 52 species), *Lamiaceae* (50), *Boraginaceae* (34), *Polygonaceae* (22 species), *Geraniaceae*, *Primulaceae* (each 17 species). The leading genera are *Carex* (39 species), *Veronica* (18 species), *Campanula* (15 species), *Rosa* (14 species), *Cerastium*, *Scrophularia* (each 12 species), *Primula*, *Saxifraga*, (each 11 species), *Verbascum* (10 species), *Pedicularis*, *Potentilla*, *Minuartia* (each 9 species).

The flora is into 9 chorological types (PALEARKT., HOLARKT, CAUC- AS. MIN, CAUC- AS. ANTER, CAUC, EUCAUC, EUROP, MEDIT, PANCONT.) and and more 33 subtypes. The chorological spectrum shows the dominance of Caucasus-Minor Asian, Palearctic, Caucasus-Anterior Asian, Holarctic, Caucasian and Eucaucasian elements.

Species composition and coenotic role are different in various parts of SE and NE of the Greater Caucasus and within each part. This is conditioned by the different hypsometry of various parts of the study area, the character of glaciations, edaphic and climatic conditions, lithological diversity.