

***Tamaricion dalmaticae* Jasprica et al., all. nova, na jugovzhodni obali Jadranskega morja**

***Tamaricion dalmaticae* Jasprica et al., all. nova, on the southeastern Adriatic coast**

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Nerium oleander L. (Apocynaceae), along with the diverse *Tamarix* species, occupies Mediterranean and Saharan-Arabian riverine and lacustrine dwarf woodlands, scrubs, and tall grass permanent communities temporarily inundated by fresh, brackish, or saline water in infra- to meso-Mediterranean, arid to dry bio-climates. It grows on the initial soils of river beds, creeks, springs, and temporary pools and belongs to the *Nerio-Tamaricetea africanae* class.

The *Nerio-Tamaricetea africanae* class is represented only by the *Tamaricetalia africanae* order. The *Tamaricetalia africanae* order is characterized by the absence of running water during a long period of the year. The order and class characterize the *Tamarix* species - mostly *T. africana* Poir. and *T. gallica* L.

Firstly, the following alliances were included in the order: *Tamaricion africanae* and *Imperato cylindricae-Erianthion ravennae* from Spain, *Nerion oleandri* from Palestine, and *Tamaricion speciosae* from South Morocco. Lately, the *Imperato cylindricae-Erianthion ravennae* alliance was excluded from the *Tamaricetalia africanae* order, which is very close to the *Phragmitetalia*, *Holoschoenetalia vulgaris*, and *Brachypodietalia phoenicoidis* orders. *Nerion oleandri* was never in fact described, but it was mentioned as a *nomen nudum* by Zohary and Orshan (1949). This alliance was revised and proposed as *Rubro ulmifolii-Nerion oleandri*, as it differed from other alliances of the *Tamaricetalia africanae* order – *Tamaricion boveniano-canariensis* and *Tamaricion africanae* – which include non-halophytic associations.

In recent investigations of the *Nerio-Tamaricetea africanae* class in Croatia, the *Chrysopogono grylli-Nerietum oleandri* association was described within the *Rubro ulmifolii-Nerion oleandri* alliance (Jasprica et al. 2007). This is the only association with oleander in Croatia, and one of two represented along the eastern Adriatic coast.

We have continued to investigate the vegetation of the *Nerio-Tamaricetea africanae* class in the period from 2006 to 2008 in the southeastern Adriatic (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania). Special attention was paid to the floristic composition and syntaxonomic status of the associations with *Tamarix dalmatica*. According to our data, a new alliance - *Tamaricion dalmaticae* Jasprica et al. - is proposed. The associations and the alliance were also compared to analogous ones in the wider Mediterranean region.