Dear visitors!
The biological diversity of Velebit Mountain is exceptionally high. Eight hundred plant species have been recorded so far in the Northern Velebit (Sjeverni Velebit) National Park alone. Discover the tiny part of this richness in the Velebit botanical garden.

Welcome!

Four decades ago...
Velebit botanical garden was established at the initiative of dr. Fran Kuslan, professor of Pharmaceutical botany at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biochemistry at the University of Zagreb. Four years later, the Garden and surrounding area were proclaimed a Botanical reserve “Zašćitni Balinovec-Velebita”.

The underlying idea of establishing the Botanical garden was to learn about and protect the richness and beauty of Velebit flora and vegetation. The Garden was also the place for scientific research, as well as for popularisation of flora and education of visitors. These functions of the Velebit botanical garden are equally important even today.

Velebit botanical garden in numbers

- The year the Garden was established: 1967
- The year the Garden was proclaimed a protected natural heritage: 1969
- The year the Special botanical reserve was established: 1971
- Surface of the Garden: 50 ha
- Surface of the Special botanical reserve: 68 ha
- The Garden altitude above sea level: 1480 m
- The number of plant species in the Garden: — 500

The symbol of the Velebit botanical garden is the endemicle plant – Velebit degenia in fruit. The visual solution of the logo was created by the academic painter Eduard Kovačević.

Velebit degenia (Degenia velebitica), is one of the most famous plants of Croatian flora. It is found on two localities on the middle and southern parts of Velebit, and on the slopes of the Kapela mountain, near the town of Senj. It can also be seen in the Velebit botanical garden and the Reserve.

Velebit botanical garden is open from May till October, during visiting season of the Northern Velebit National Park. Entrance to the Garden is free, and the best time to visit is during June and July, when the Garden shows itself in all of its beauty.
Velebit botanical garden

Velebit botanical garden is situated in Modrić dolac, at about 1480 m above the sea level, some 15 minutes of the pleasant walk of the Zavižan mountain hut. In its central part there is a Balinovac sinkhole surrounded by the rocky trail. More trails branch from it towards the mountain peaks of Balinovac, Veliki Zavitan and Velika Kosa.

In the Garden, there is a botanical station, resting place, wooden benches, and a well water. Plant species are labeled, while interpretive trails explain basic natural values of the Garden. Especially interesting is the big rockery with plants adapted to extreme life conditions of the least - coolness, snow and strong winds.

In the Velebit botanical garden and a Reserve one can find extreme diversity of plants and landscapes present in the small area. There are forests of the European mountain pine, beach and spruce, meadows and grasslands, rockeries, scree, and bare rocks.

There are about 500 different plant species in the Velebit botanical garden. Some are self-grown, while the others are introduced from other parts of the Velebit mountain. The most known species is Croatian sibirea (Sibirea alatensis ssp. croatica), an endemic plant that grows in the botanical reserve Vela Babina, in the north part of the Park.

Since the foundation up to the proclamation of the “Sjeverni Velebit National Park” in 1999, the care about the Velebit botanical garden was taken by the staff of the Krasno Forestry Office, which is the part of the Senj Forestry Administration. Expert work was carried out by the committee composed of the eminent scientists.

Join us!

Today, the Garden is taken care of by the Public Institution Sjeverni Velebit National Park, and professional help in maintenance of the Garden is provided by the Zagreb University Botanical Garden employees. Please join our efforts to keep Velebit Botanical Garden the place of enjoyment for all those who visit. Adopt a plant and become a “Friend of Velebit Botanical Garden!” Please find all the information at our website /www.np-sjeverni-velebit.hr/ or give us a call!