

## RESEARCH CAMPS FOR STUDENTS IN CICARIJA

### 1. Flora of the Karst edge

The area of the Karst edge is the natural boundary between the limestone world of karst and Ćićarija and the lower located flysch Istria. The Ćićarija area is characterized by extensive karst grasslands, which have been maintained by mowing and grazing and are considered one of the richest habitats in Europe. The rocks of the Karst edge represent an additional peculiarity because the southern position and shelter against the bora wind provide a characteristic, very suitable microclimate for the most thermophilic representatives of our flora.

The research camp participants will be taught to recognize ferns and seed plants of the Karst edge and introduced to the methodology used to identify patterns of flora and vegetation diversity.

The research camp program will be led by a specialist in botany.

**Recommended period:** May – June

**Meeting point and accommodation:** Vodice (Croatia), Speleo House

**Fieldwork area:** wider area of northern Istria (area between Lipnik and Žbevnica, valley of river Mirna near the Istrian thermal resort).

**Program:**

#### Day 1

The arrival at the meeting point in the afternoon hours. An introductory lecture in the evening.

#### Day 2

All day fieldwork: flora of the grassland between Lipnik and Žbevnica.

In the evening: work in the laboratory and a thematic lecture.

#### Day 3

All day fieldwork: flora of limestone rocks and thermophilic slopes in the vicinity of the Istrian thermal resort

In the evening: closing of the research camp and departure.

**Number of participants:** up to eight (maximum number per mentor).

**Available material:** keys and manuals for identifying plants, stereo microscopes and microscopes, paper and presses for preparing herbarium specimens.

**Recommended fieldwork equipment:** camera, notebook, fieldwork clothing and footwear, sun and rain protection.

**Meals:** Breakfast and dinner will be provided by the organizer and will be served at the accommodation. Participants are responsible for providing other meals.

**Price:** The price includes guides, material costs, accommodation and two meals (2 x breakfast and 2 x dinner). Price is determined based on the number of participants.

**Transportation:** It is the responsibility of the participants to organize their own transportation to the meeting point. We recommend the use of personal vehicles for the transport to the field. Transportation of the entire group can be arranged with the event organizer in advance. Transportation costs are covered separately by the participants.

**WARNING:** Permissions issued by the appropriate bodies of the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Croatia to work with endangered plant and animal species are required for the performance of the program.

