

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF FLORA AND VEGETATION OF THE TERTIARY IN THE EXTRACARPATHIAN AREA OF ROMANIA

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ABSTRACT. The author presents the fossil flora and vegetation of the extracarpathian regions of Romania: on one hand, the Eocene-Oligocene-Late Dacian fossil floras from the southern area, and on the other hand - the Sarmatian ones from the eastern area. It is insisted on the Sarmatian as compared to the one from Transylvania. There are important similarities with the southern area, but none as concerns the eastern one. The characteristic feature of the area comprised between the Carpathians and the Prut is the absence of the Lauraceae and the massive presence of Betulaceae. The author suggests the creation of a palaeofitogeographic and palaeoclimatic sub-province called Moldavica.

KEYWORDS: fossil flora, vegetation, Tertiary, Romania

INTRODUCTION

In 1997, on the occasion of publishing the monograph "The History of Fossil Forests in Transylvanian Tertiary" we were arguing this apparent regionalism with the fact that as compared to the 54 fossil floras which can be cited for Transylvania, Banat, Crișana, and Maramureș, in the extracarpathian regions, south or east of the Carpathians, the floristic inventory is incomparably poorer, whether we refer to the fossiliferous points, or to their inventory. This was the reason why we gave up their presentation at that moment. Yet we consider that the fossil flora of Romania cannot be conceived without the study of these floras, inasmuch we know them. We cannot speak about a whole, without also presenting the extracarpathian floras. They will make the object of the this study, in which we will present the fossil floras of the Tertiary from Oltenia, Muntenia and Moldova, or, for simplicity:

- I. The tertiary fossil floras from the area between the Carpathians and the Danube.
- II. The tertiary fossil floras from the area between the Carpathians and the Prut.

We owe the knowledge of these floras either to more recent studies - Țicleanu, Stancu and Țicleanu, or to older ones - Barbu 1954.

In both situations, nomenclatoric or even taxonomic interventions were required, to bring the studies up to date. In the first mentioned area, the following floras were described:

- a. Late Eocene - Oligocene: Muereasca de Sus, Suslănești
- b. Badenian: Ciocadia and Pârlagele
- c. Sarmatian: Slătioara, Pietrarii de Sus, Tănășești-Râmești, Porceni, Râmești
- d. Late Pontian - late Dacian: Cărbunești, Temișani, Dedovița.

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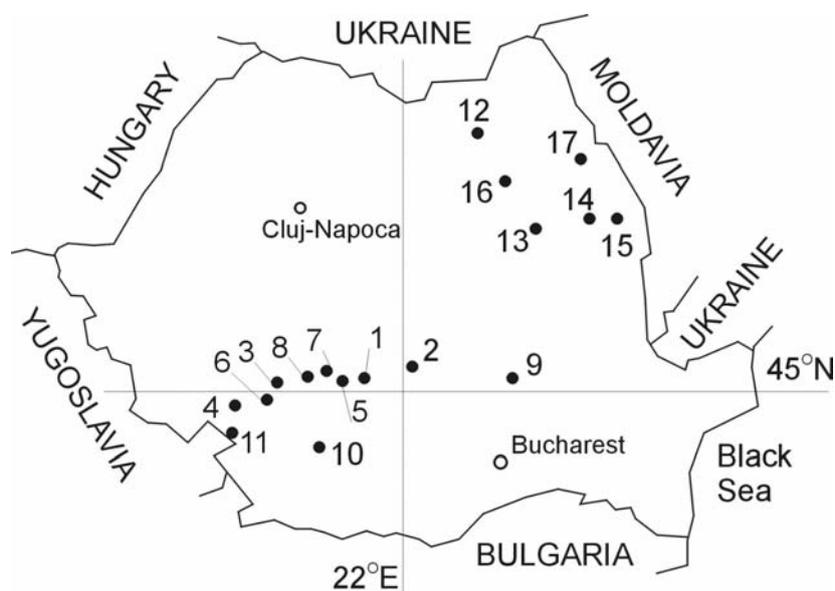


Fig. 1. Location of sites on the map of Romania. 1 – Muereasca de Sus; 2 – Suslănești; 3 – Ciocadia; 4 – Pârlagele; 5 – Slătioara; 6 – Porceni; 7 – Râmești; 8 – Tănăsești-Râmești; 9 – Cărbunești; 10 – Temișani; 11 – Dedovița; 12 – Fălticeni; 13 – Comănești; 14 – Hârșova; 15 – Bunești; 16 – Corni; 17 – Păun/Iași

DESCRIPTION OF THE FLORAS

I. The tertiary fossil floras from the area between the Carpathians and the Danube

a. The Late Eocene – Oligocene floras

a.1. The fossil flora from Muereasca de Sus.

Muereasca de Sus is located north of Râmnicu-Vâlcea, on the Muereasca brook, right affluent of the Olt River. As concerns the fossiliferous site, it was discovered, after Barbu (1936), on the same brook, in the place called Capul lazului. The plants have been collected from marls, which appear as insertions in a succession of gritstone marls. The succession lacks fossils, therefore its age is appreciated only in the general geological frame, as Late Eocene - Early Oligocene. The flora was the object of study for Marion and Laurent (1895), and later for Barbu (1936) who published the first extensive study of it. It was revised by Givulescu in 1992, but only on the basis of Barbu's work. This revision emphasized the following list of plants:

cf. *Amentotaxus gladiifolia* (Ludwig) Ferg., Jähn., Alvin
Doliosrobis taxiformis (Mar.) Kv.
Coniferae sp. conus
Salix varians Goepf.

cf. *Myrica longifolia* Ung.
Comptonia oeningensis Al. Br.
Comptonia diformis (Stbg.) Berry
Carya elaeoides (Ung.) Heer
Palaeocarya macroptera (Brngt.) Jähn., Friedr. et Tak.
Dryophyllum rumanus Barbu
Ulmus braunii Heer
Persea princeps (Heer) Schimp.
Daphnogene cinnamomea (Brngt.) Kn.
Palaeolobium sotskianum Ung.
Cassiophyllum berenices (Ung.) Kr.
Robinia regeli Heer
Gleditsia knorrii (Al, Br.) Hantke
Sapindus falcifolius Al. Br.
Phyllites sp.1
Phyllites sp.2.

The presence, firstly, of *Doliosstrobilus* and *Dryophyllum*, but also of *Palaeolobium*, *Daphnogene cinnamomea*, and possibly *Myrica longifolia*, confers to this flora the unquestionable feature of an old Tertiary one, ante Chattian. As it appears, this small flora of only 19 taxa (18 genera and 11 families) gives the impression of a mixture, an accidental tafocenosis with elements originating from different palaeoenvironments, a mixture of arctotertiary and palaeotropical types, represented by trees and shrubs, some with entire, others with dentate leaves. Statistics is out of question, due to the reduced number of taxa. We consider that this material was brought by water (except for the *Palaeocarya* and *Ulmus*) into a sea deposit where it was scattered by waves. Its satisfactory state of preservation indicates a short-term transportation.

a.2. The fossil flora from Suslănești

Suslănești village is located in the proximity of the city Câmpulung-Muscel. The fossiliferous sites are situated to the north of the village, in Mărlăuz dale, but also in Malul Mătușei, Crângu or Dealul Curcanilor. There is a succession of micritic and disodic shales rich in fossil fish skeletons, fish scales and plants (Paucă 1933). Their age is estimated, without any other details, as Oligocene. Yet we remind that Paucă considered them to be Rupelian, on basis of *Clupea crenata* = *C. longimana*. Besides Paucă (1933), the plants have been studied at length by Givulescu (1989 and 1989a). The vegetal material appears at the surface of disodic shales plates as impressions, exceptionally compressions, and is generally well preserved. It is a somewhat richer tafocenosis, containing 20 taxa. It's worth to be mentioned that we are considering it as a dispersed plant deposit - they do not appear in a single point and at a single level, but are spread in the whole package of shales, which shows irregular and quite accidental contributions of fossil material. Anyway, their transportation was not a long-term one and then they sedimented quietly, being covered with silt. What raises questions is the fact that in these unquestionably non-oxygenated waters the plants were still preserved as impressions and not compressions, which would have been normal in an anoxic environment.

We present a list of the identified plants, with the mention that it could have been much more comprehensive if the material would not have been covered with a non-transparent varnish.

Algae sp.
Taxodium dubium (Stbg.) Heer
Chamaecyparites argesiensis Giv.
Laurophyllum sp. aff. *L. pseudoprinceps* (Kr. et Wld.) Wld. et Kilp.
Laurophyllum paucae Giv.
Laurophyllum sp.
Daphnogene polymorpha (Al. Br.) Ett.
cf. *Benzoin antiquum* Heer
Eutriconobalanus furcinervis (Rossm.) Walth. et Kv.
Myrica banksiaefolia Ung.
Myrica longifolia Ung.
Palaeocarya orsbergensis (Wes. et Web.) Jähn., Friedr., Tak.
"Juglans" *acuminata* Al. Br.
Caesalpinia townshendi Heer
Cassiophyllum berenices (Ung.) Kr.
Gleditsia lyelliana (Heer) Hantke
Grevilea lancifolia Heer
Grewiopsis sp.
Apocynophyllum helveticum Heer
"Laurus" *phoeboides* Ett.
"Laurus" *tetrantheroides* Ett.
Dicotylophyllum sp. 1, sp. 2, sp.3, sp.4

The examination of this list, in fact very modest, shows mainly an essential fact: the disappearance of *Doliosstobus* and its replacement by *Taxodium*, which suggests, as we think, that we are dealing with a younger level of the Oligocene than that from Muereasca de Sus. There are also many Lauraceae and Leguminosae. We will add to the list as typical Oligocene *Eutriconobalanus*, *Apocynophyllum*, the two types of *Myrica* and the long-lived *Palaeocarya orsbergensis*, which attains maximum development during this time lag. Considered on the whole, the flora has an unquestionable Oligocene appearance, as it is also found at Cornești/Aghireș near Cluj-Napoca. As concerns the frequency we will remind that the material appears in singular samples except for *Eutriconobalanus* (7) and *Myrica* (11). Finally we will underline the great number of algae, which, although unidentified, show quiet near-shore waters. We must imagine the vegetation of Oligocene period from Suslănești (and, of course, not only from here) as coming from at least two palaeobiotops: one of a river meadow with *Gleditsia*, *Daphnogene*, *Palaeocarya*, *Eutriconobalanus*, and another one of hillock regions with *Apocynophyllum*, *Lauraceae*, *Myricaceae*, *Juglans*, *Cassiophyllum*, *Caesalpinia*, all these forming more or less bound associations of trees and shrubs. There is also *Taxodium*, which might have vegetated close to running water, very probably as isolated specimens. It is impossible to accept a description like "swamp areas", as Paucă (1933) asserts.

Although the number of identified taxa of this flora is relatively reduced, we have still tried, for curiosity, to establish the proportion entire leaves versus dentate

leaves. The result was improbable (84:16%), especially if we compare it with what we know about the flora from Cornești, accomplished on basis of a very large number of fossil leaves: 57,57%: 42,42%. If the first result refers to a subtropical wet or even rainy climate, the second one refers also to a very wet climate, but of a temperate warm type. Is it acceptable that on the two sides of the Carpathians, still to appear, had existed two such distinct climates? Our answer is definitely negative, for our opinion is that there had been a more or less similar climate on the whole territory, more exactly the Oligocene dry land, and it is the one from Cornești.

b. The Late Badenian flora

This flora comes from two localities: Ciocadia from Gorj and Pârlagele from Mehedinți. But since both fossiliferous sites, although remote, appear at the same stratigraphic level of the Badenian, namely the one with *Velapertina iorgulescui* which indicates a Late Badenian, we will study them together.

Ciocadia is situated in the westside of Gorj county. Țicleanu (1984), who studied the flora, gives no detail about the site of collection. Pârlagele locality, on the other hand, is situated 12 km northeast of Drobeta Turnu Severin. Here, the plants appear in the middle part of Negoiasa valley and of some tributaries in several points (Stancu and Țicleanu, 1975). The plants appear here as impressions covered with a coal film, they are rather fragmented and some of them even contorted. Obviously, it was an occasional transport by running waters, in other words a diffuse deposit type. In this case we cannot, practically, speak of a tafocenosis.

Unlike it, the plants from Ciocadia appear in the form of a fossiliferous site. The material is generally satisfactorily preserved, as impressions. The large quantity of *Pinus* keys and seeds prove an active air transport, along with one by running water, which had not deteriorated too much or even at all the leaves in question. Taking into account that this is the flora of the same stratigraphic level, we will present the flora together and not by separate points.

Late Badenian flora contains 32 taxa, and it allows some statistic conclusions to be drawn. It contains 20 genera (one "*incertae*" and 12 families), so it is a varied flora. The ratio entire leaves: dentate leaves is of 33,33%:66,66%, the ratio arctotertiary: palaeotropical is of 64,70%:35,29%, numbers which seem normal for this time-lag. The change of flora composition in Miocene concerning the dentate leaves as well as the arctotertiary element is obvious. From the point of view of the flora, it is a normal Middle Miocene one, with many *Pinus*, *Tetraclinis* in its first extracarpathian occurrence, *Trigonobalanopsis rhamnoides* in the same first occurrence, *Palaeocarya*, with not too many Lauraceae, but rich in Aceraceae. We must underline the appearance of *Castanea kubinyi*, the typical Sarmatian taxon. This kind of palaeocenosis had unquestionably vegetated in different palaeoenvironments. The most important of them seems to have been the one of dry hillock land, of different exposition, with *Betula*, *Carpinus*, *Juglans*, *Ulmus*, *Tilia*, *Acer*, *Persea*, *Trigonobalanopsis*, and, obviously, *Castanea*. Many remains had been brought by the wind from different distances. Another palaeobiotop is the river meadow one with *Palaeocarya*, *Daphnogene*, *Gleditsia*. There might have been more marshy, wet places in this area, where, probably, *Tetraclinis*, *Myrica*, *Populus* had vegetated. The numerous *Pinus* had probably vegetated in all palaeoenvironments.

Tab. 1.

Summary of Badenian flora

Name of the taxon	Locality	Climate	Leaf type
<i>Acer</i> cf. <i>platanoides</i> L.		C - key	
<i>Acer</i> sp. aff. <i>angustilobum</i> Heer	P	A	D
<i>Acer</i> sp. key	C		
<i>Acer tricuspidatum</i> Bronn	C, P	A	D
<i>Betula</i> sp. aff. <i>macrophylla</i> (Brngt.) Heer	C	A	D
<i>Carpinus</i> sp. ex gr. <i>betulus</i> L.		C - bractea	
<i>Carpinus</i> sp. ex gr. <i>caroliniana</i> Walt.		C - bractea	
<i>Carpinus</i> sp. ex gr. <i>kisseri</i> Berger		C - bractea	
<i>Castanea kubinyi</i> Kov. ex Err.	C	A	D
<i>Carya</i> sp.	C	A	D
<i>Daphnogene polymorpha</i> (Al.Br.) Ett.	C, P	P	E
<i>Gleditsia aquatica</i> (Heer) Mai	C	A	D
<i>Gleditsia lyelliana</i> (Heer) Hantke	C	A	D
<i>Juglans acuminata</i> Al. Br.	P, C	A	E
<i>Myrica lignitum</i> (Ung.) Sap.	P	P	D
<i>Palaeocarya orsbergensis</i> Wess et Web, Jähn., Fridr.	C, P	P	D
<i>Persea givulescui</i> Ticl.	P	P	E
<i>Persea princeps</i> (Heer) Schimp	C	P	E
<i>Phyllites</i> sp.	C, P		E
<i>Phyllites</i> sp. aff. <i>Leguminosites</i> sp.	C		E
<i>Pinus</i> cf. <i>halepensis</i> Mill.	C	A	
<i>Pinus laricoides</i> Menzel	P	A	
<i>Pinus maritima</i> Poir.	C	A	
<i>Pinus</i> sp. semina tip 1	P		
<i>Pinus</i> sp. semina tip 2	P		
<i>Populus</i> sp. (an n. sp.?)	P	A	D
Ramulus pini	P		
<i>Tetraclinis salicornioides</i> (Ung) Kv.	C	P	
<i>Tilia josephinae</i> Ticl.	P	A	D
<i>Trigonobalanopsis rhamnoides</i> (Rossm.) Walt. et Kv.	C, P	P	E
<i>Ulmus brauni</i> Goepp.	C	A	D
<i>Ulmus pyramidalis</i> Goepp.	P	A	D

Locality: C - Ciocadia, P - Pîrlagele; **Climatic feature:** A - arctotertiary, P - palaeotropical; **leaf type:** E - entire, D – dentate.

Although the material is quite scarce, we tried to build a histogram of leaf size classes. The result is the following:

nanophyll	21,42%
microphyll	60,71%
notophyll	14,28%
mesophyll	3,75%

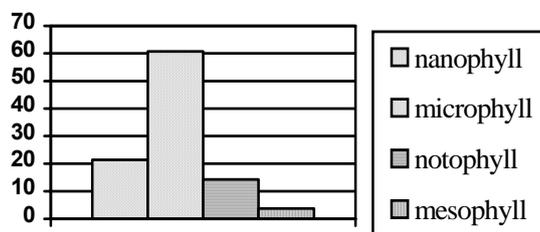


Fig. 2. Leaf size histogram. Badenian flora.

Two facts become obvious: the predominance of the microphyll class, yet in normal limits, and the existence of four size classes. It is a well-balanced histogram from the category of credible.

c. The Sarmatian flora

The richest flora of the discussed perimeter is the one belonging to the Sarmatian. This flora is located exclusively in Oltenia. It belongs to Early Sarmatian (Slătioara), Late Bessarabian (Porceni, Râmești) and Bessarabian-Kersonian (Tănăsești-Râmești). The richest and the most representative of them is the one from Slătioara with 25 taxa. All the others contain less than 20 taxa. Concerning the age: the flora from Slătioara integrates into the biozone with *Cystoseirites partschi*, a fossil specific for the Early Sarmatian in the whole Pannonian area. The floras from Porceni, as well as the one from Râmești, are dated not according to the fossils, but by their stratigraphic position; finally, the flora from Tănăsești-Râmești is dated by the presence of *Cryptomacra pesanseris* and *Mactra bulgarica* as belonging to the Bessarabian-Kersonian.

Taking into account the fact that we are dealing with a well-defined stratigraphic interval, in which the fossil floras present only small unimportant variations, we considered possible to study them altogether. It must also be specified that the whole material is preserved as impressions, the best preserved being those from Porceni, while the others often present broken, incomplete leaves. The material is unquestionably allochthonous in all the points mentioned, being brought by the wind (*Pinus*, *Acer*, *Palaeocarya*), and by running waters. The presence of *Cystoseirites* alga at Slătioara indicates quiet waters, near the shore. With 12, 15 and 17 specimens we cannot talk but about absolutely accidental tafocenoses. We must also specify that Barbu (1956) mentioned at Porceni a *Doliosstrobilus sternbergi*, which does not belong to a Miocene flora. We think it might possibly be a *Cryptomeria*. *Ilex sturdzai* Marion et Laurent was also not taken into consideration. The leaf mentioned by the authors was not described anywhere. Finally, we grouped the great number of *Pinus* seeds, assigned to numerous present-day types described at Porceni, into *Pinus* sp.-semina. A close look at the flora shows the presence of several conifers: *Glyptostrobilus* (only at Râmești), *Pseudotsuga*, *Tetraclinis*, and especially the numerous remains of *Pinus* - needles and winged seeds. The Lauraceae are weakly represented: only *Daphnogene* (in three sites), *Sassafras* and *Laurophyllum* (also in three sites), while the Juglandaceae appear by *Juglans*, *Carya*, *Pterocarya*, but

Tab. 2.

The fossil flora of the Sarmatian in Oltenia

Name of the taxon	Locality	Climate	Leaf type
<i>Acer tricuspidatum</i> Bronn	SI	A	D
<i>Acer sanctae crucis</i> Stur	SI	A	D
<i>Acer platanoides</i> L.	P	A	D
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> L.	P	A	D
<i>Andromeda protogaea</i> Unger	SI	P	E
<i>Anona elliptica</i> Unger	SI	P	E
<i>Betula dryadum</i> Sap.	SI, P	A	D
<i>Carpinus cf. grandis</i> Ung.	T-R	A	D
<i>Carpinus orientalis</i> Mill.	SI, P	A	D
<i>Carya serraefolia</i> (Goepp.) Kr.	P	A	D
<i>Cassiophyllum berenices</i> (Ung.) Kr.	SI	P	E
<i>Castanea kubinyi</i> Kov. ex Ett	SI, P, R	A	D
<i>Colutea salteri</i> Heer	SI, T-R	A	E
<i>Cystoseirites partschi</i> Stbg.	SI		
<i>Daphnogene polymorpha</i> (Al.Br.) Ett	SI, R, T-R	P	E
<i>Fagus silesiaca</i> Walt. et Zast.	SI, P	A	D
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.	SI, R, T-R	A	D
<i>Glyptostrobus europaeus</i> (Brngt) Ung.	R	A	
<i>Juglans acuminata</i> Al.Br.	R, T-R	A	E
<i>Laurophyllum brauni</i> (Heer) Nem. et Kn.	SI, R, T-R	P	E
<i>Liriodendron procaccini</i> Ung.	P	A	D
<i>Leguminosites</i> sp.	P, R	A/P	E
<i>Nerium</i> sp, aff. <i>N. oleander</i> L.	T-R	P	E
<i>Palaeocarya orsbergensis</i> (Wess. et Web.) Jähn. Friedr.	SI, R, T-R	P	D
<i>Palaeocarya maxeoptera</i> (Brngt.) Jähn., Friedr - Tak.	P		
<i>Periploca cf. graeca</i> L.	SI	A	E
<i>Phragmites oeningensis</i> Al. Br.	T-R	A	
<i>Pinus</i> sp. - <i>binæ</i>	P, T-R	A	
<i>Pinus maritima</i> Poir	SI	A	
<i>Pinus leptophylla</i> Sap.	SI	A	
<i>Populus populina</i> (Brngt.) Kn.	P	A	D
<i>Pseudotsuga aff. douglasi</i> Carr.	SI	A	
<i>Pterocarya cf. caucasica</i> Spach	R, T-R	A	D
<i>Quercus neriifolia</i> Heer	SI	A	E
<i>Robinia affinis</i> Heer	P	A	E
<i>Salix longa</i> Heer	R, T-R	A	E
<i>Salix varians</i> Goepp.	R, T-R	A	D
<i>Sapindus falcifolius</i> Al. Br.	SI, T-R	P	E
<i>Sassafras</i> sp.	T-R	A	D
<i>Tetraclinis salicornioides</i> (Ung. Kv.)	T-R	A	
<i>Tilia</i> sp.	SI	A	D
<i>Ulmus pyramidalis</i> Goepp	SI, T-R	A	D
<i>Zelkova zelkovaefolia</i> (Ung.) Buz. et Kn.	SI, T-R	A	D

Locality: SI - Slătioara, P - Porceni, R - Râmești, T-R - Tănăsești-Râmești; **Climatic feature:** A - arctotertiary, P - palaeotropical; **leaf type:** D - dentate, E - entire.

especially by *Palaeocarya* (leaves and bracteae). From Fagaceae we mention some remains of *Fagus*, which appears in Transylvania only much later, then *Castanea* and *Quercus neriifolia*, but not *Quercus* dentate or lobed. Different types of *Acer*, among which *A. tricuspdatum*, represent the *Aceraceae* then we mention also the *Salicaceae*, *Fabaceae* with *Cassiophyllum Robinia* and *Colutea* and the *Betulaceae* weakly represented only by bracteae. Yet it is worth mentioning the presence of some rarities: *Liriodendron proccacini* (bracteae), *Nerium cf. oleander*, *Anona eliptica*, *Periploca cf. graeca* and a bractea of *Tilia*.

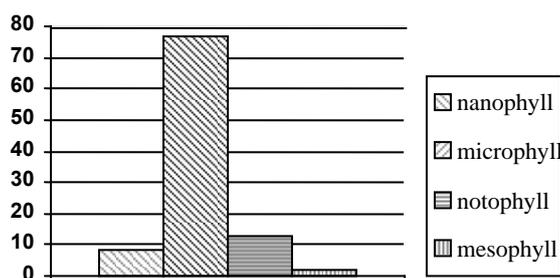
The flora from Slătioara belongs to the floras with *Cystoseirites* and *Palaeocarya* from Transylvania. The connections between Oltenia and Transylvania during the Early Sarmatian seem to have been total from the point of view of vegetation. In fact, if we compare the flora from Slătioara with those described in Transylvania from the point of view of the parameters entire leaves: dentate leaves, we will find that it is most similar to the one from Deva-Tâmpa (Givulescu 1992, Givulescu-Barbu 1997).

From the point of view of palaeovegetation we will first distinguish the one of hillock areas of different altitudes, expositions, palaeoenvironments, an association of mesophytic forest. On the other hand: *Daphnogene*, *Palaeocarya*, *Acer tricuspdatum*, *Salix*, *Zelkova* and *Pterocarya* indicate a river meadow or alluvial area environment, more or less wet. Our conclusion is that we are dealing with a mixed mesophytic flora type, the representative of a wet warm temperate vegetation, which shows strong affinities with the present-day floras from Transylvania.

At the end, the last problem: we had the curiosity to compose a histogram of the leaf size classes on the basis of the entire Sarmatian leaf material. It presents as follows:

nanophyll	8,38%
microphyll	77,08%
notophyll	12,50%
mesophyll	2,08%

Fig. 3. Leaf size histogram. Sarmatian flora.



The histogram belongs to the category of improbable, due to the high percentage of microphyll.

d. The fossil flora of Late Pontian - Late Dacian period**d.1. Late Pontian - Early Dacian flora from Cărbunești.**

This locality is situated in the north-east side of Prahova county. The fossil plants have been collected from two sites: Soreasca and Rogoatele brooks. In the first case, from sandy marls or reddish marls with *Pachydacna serena*, *P. cobălcescui* and *Prosodacna rumana*; in the second case, also from a sandy-marl succession, but with *Prosodacna haueri haueri*, *Viviparus rumanus* and *Stylodacna heberti*. So, in the first case, the deposits belong to the Late Pontian, and in the second case they belong to the Early Dacian. The list of plants collected in these two fossiliferous sites is more than modest: only 14 taxa. There are two deposits of the diffuse type, an absolutely accidental tafocenosis transported and especially selected by waters. The whole material appears in the form of impressions. The list of the revised material is the following:

Sassafras ferretianum Mass.
Alnus hoernesii Stur
Carpinus grandis Ung.
Carpinus sp. aff. *C. orientalis* Mill.
Quercus robur pliocaenica Sap.
Quercus aff. *Q. drymeja* Ung.
Castanea sp.
Pterocarya paradisiaca (Ung.) Ilj.
Ulmus pyramidalis Goepf.
Liquidambar europaea Al. Br.
Amelanchier ? sp.
Cassiophyllum berenices (Ung.) Kr.
Populus populina (Ung.) Kn.
Salix integra Goepf.

This small flora, a simple accidental accumulation, still shows some peculiar characteristics, which must be pointed out. Among the presences we will underline, the first appearance of the types of roburoid *Quercus*. Then the presence of the lauraceae *Sassafras*, mentioned until now only at Chiuzbaia, and of *Alnus hoernesii*, a rarity even in the rich floras from Transylvania. *Pterocarya paradisiaca* and *Liquidambar europaea* are also new for this geographic area. We will also underline the absence (accidental, probably) of *Pinus* types so well represented in the floras of the Sarmatian, the absence of ferns, of *Betula*, *Zelkova* and others. But we underline that it is an excerpt of flora. As concerns the vegetation we can say just the following: mesophytic hillock vegetation, not yet differentiated from the Sarmatian.

d.2. The Dacian flora from Temișani

The locality is situated in the south-west of Gorj county, on the right bank of Jiu river and on the homonym brook. However, the fossil plants have been collected from the Halingi valley, Stana and Brazi, especially from a succession of red ripe clays. The flora described by Barbu (1933) is small: it contains only 15 taxa, being a diffuse tafocenosis, an accidental accumulation that mixed up the plants of two biocenoses. The material identified and, especially, revised contains:

Osmunda regalis L, var. *fossilis* Barbu
Glyptostrobus europaeus (Brngt.) Ung.
Parrotia pristina (Ett.) Stur
Pterocarya paradisiaca (Ung.) Ilj.
Sapindus falcifolius Al. Br.
Buxus sempervirens L. *fossilis* Engelh.
Populus populina (Brngt.) Kn.
Salix stefănescui Mar. et Laur.
Salix varians Goepp.
Salix pliocaenica Barbu
Salix sp. aff. *S. babylonica* L.
Salix fragilis L. *fossilis* Barbu
Byttneriophyllum tiliaefolium (Al.Br.) Kn. et Kv.
Phyllites sp.1
Phyllites sp.2

This flora shows no special features, except for the presence of *Pterocarya*, *Sapindus*, and especially *Buxus*, one of the rare specimens of *Buxus* cited in Romania (see Givulescu, 1971). Surprising is the presence of no less than 5 species of *Salix* which, as it seems, must be accepted as they are. For the first time there appears a fern – *Osmunda*. Also for the first time, *Byttneriophyllum* is cited.

As concerns the vegetation, we are dealing unquestionably, at least partially, with a vegetation of carbogenerator facies: *Glyptostrobus* and *Byttneriophyllum*, to which *Osmunda* is added. From more damp, aluvial areas come the Saliaceae, *Pterocarya*, possibly *Populus*. From the dry land of the surroundings - *Sapindus*, *Buxus*, *Parrotia*, all of solar exposition. They represent only a modest sample of a vegetation from the dry surroundings.

d.3. Late Dacian flora from Dedovița

The locality is situated in the vicinity of Drobeta Turnu Severin town. The fossil plants have been collected, on one hand, from the springs of Dedovița Valley, on the other hand, from Poroina Valley, that is from blue and yellow compact marls, with *Viviparus argesensis*, *Hyriopsis* sp. and *Unio* sp., which date them as Late Dacian. The tafocenosis is very poor, obviously being a diffuse deposit, of plants brought accidentally by watercourses and sedimented in the Dacian lake.

They are obviously accidental accumulations. We will also remind that the plants appear as impressions. The list of identified plants is the following:

Pinus sp.
Sequoia abietina (Brngt.) Kn.
Glyptostrobus europaeus (Brngt.) Ung.
Alnus cf. *gaudini* (Heer) Kn. et Kv.
Alnus sp.
Betula cf. *macrophylla* (Goepp.) Heer
Carpinus grandis Ung. - folia, bractea
Fagus silesiaca (Goepp.) Walther et Zast.
Quercus cf. *roburoides* Bér.

Carya serraefolia (Goepp.) Kr.
Juglans acuminata Al. Br.
Salix integra Goepp.
Salix sp. aff. *S. varians* Al. Br.
Liquidambar europaea Al. Br.

From the beginning we will underline two facts: except for two types, all the others have a dentate edge, but the whole material is of arctotertiary type - a very significant fact. Unquestionably, the most interesting appearance is the presence of *Sequoia abietina*, a relict, but which appears under the same conditions also in Transylvania, at Chiuzbaia. The longevity of this taxon from the Early Tertiary is remarkable. Interesting is also the presence of a *Quercus* of the roburoid type, which, as in Transylvania at Borsec, Bodos and Biborțeni, appears as normal in the context of the Pliocene. The rest of the flora shows nothing special.

A simple look at the list of flora shows that it comes from two palaeobiotops, clear but unequally developed, at least judging by the frequency of the remains. We have, first, the one of the marshy forest, to which a river meadow one is added, that is with *Glyptostrobus* and *Alnus* on one hand, and *Salix*, possibly *Carya*, on another hand; second, we can speak of a mesophytic forest with *Fagus*, *Quercus*, *Carpinus*, then *Juglans*, *Liquidambar* and *Betula*. It is very probable that rare specimens of *Sequoia* had vegetated in this forest, in isolation, like at Chiuzbaia, as well as we might suppose that they had vegetated totally isolated in their favourite environment of acid peaty soil.

II. The fossil flora of the area between the Carpathians and the Prut River

This flora is characterized by:

- it belongs exclusively to the Sarmatian;
- it is poor - in fossiliferous sites (only 6) - as well as in what concerns their content. With one exception (Comănești - more or less autochthonous flora), the rest are accidental - allochthonous accumulations, in some tafocenoses the importance of which consists only in the fact that they suggest the existence of a vegetation of a certain type on the surrounding dry land.

From a stratigraphic point of view these floras can be grouped as follows: Early Sarmatian - Fălticeni, Middle Sarmatian (Bessarabian) - Hârsova, Bunesti, Corni, Late Bessarabian - Kersonian - Comănești, Kersonian - Păun/Iași.

From the facies point of view they are of a marshy forest facies: Fălticeni and Comănești, the rest belong to mesophytic forests. We will consider them separately.

a. The floras from Fălticeni and Comănești.

If the first is an accumulation of only 6 vegetal remains, which are fortunately characteristic, the second contains 18 types, characteristic as well.

Leaving aside for the moment the allochthonous remains of the mesophytic forest, we find as types common for both floras: *Osmunda* (*regalis* or *parschlugiana*), *Glyptostrobus* and the types of *Alnus*: *gaudini* at Fălticeni, *kefertseini latior*, and especially *cecropiaefolia* - at Comănești. The characteristic element for an association

Tab. 3

Sarmatian flora (of carbogenerator type) from Comănești and Fălticeni

Name of the taxon	Locality	Climate
<i>Acer ezoanum</i> Oishi et Huz.	C	A
<i>Acer</i> sp.	C	A
<i>Alnus cecropiaefolia</i> (Ett.) Berger	C	A
<i>Alnus kefersteini</i> (Goepp.) Ung.	C	A
<i>Alnus latior</i> Sap.	C	A
<i>Betula oxydonta</i> Sap.	C, F	A
<i>Betula prisca</i> Ett.	C	A
<i>Betula</i> sp.	C	
<i>Byttneriophyllum tiliaefolium</i> (Al. Br.) Kn. et Kv.	C	P
<i>Carpinus grandis</i> Ung.	C, F	A
<i>Carpinus</i> sp.	C	
<i>Corylus mac-quarrii</i> (Forb.) Heer	F	A
<i>Fagus silesiaca</i> (Goepp.) Walt., Zast-	C	A
<i>Glyptostrobus europaeus</i> (Brngt) Ung.	C, F	A
<i>Osmunda</i> cf. <i>regalis</i> L.	F	A
<i>Osmunda parschlugiana</i> (Ung.) Andr.	C	A
<i>Phragmites oeningensis</i> Al. Br.	C	
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.	C	
<i>Pteris</i> sp.	C	
<i>Salix varians</i> Goepp.	C	A

Locality: C - Comănești, F – Fălticeni; **Climatic feature:** A - arctotertiary, P - palaeotropical.

from a marshy forest, and we refer to *Byttneriophyllum* which appears only at Comănești, is absent at Fălticeni. The problem is how we interpret this absence: it did not vegetate, or it did not get into the deposit? Taking into consideration that we are dealing with a tree that supplies impressive quantities of leaves, it is impossible for as small a remnant not to have fossilized. We must then admit that it had not vegetated, and the moment of its appearance not only in the flora of Moldova, but also in that of Romania, is the Bessarabian-Kersonian lag. In fact, at Comănești we find for the first time the triad: *Glyptostrobus*, *Byttneriophyllum*, *Alnus cecropiaefolia*. If we add some remains of *Salix*, we will have the full image of the marshy forest that will develop in the Paratethys area at the basis of Pontian, a forest that appears here for the first time. In the rest of the palaeoassociation we find almost the same elements brought from dry land: *Coryllus*, *Betula*, *Carpinus*, in addition a *Fagus* at Comănești, also here an *Acer*, elements of a mesophytic forest of higher altitude and a little colder. We will also remind that except for the *Byttneriophyllum*, the whole material is of arctotertiary type. Finally, concerning the carbogenesis, it seems that the marshy forest from Fălticeni was just an unsuccessful attempt to make such a facies, while the one from Comănești generated important coal deposits in the region. This was a well outlined and well-formed forest, where the tectonic factor, respectively the subsidence, also played an essential role in its promotion.

b. Mesophytic type flora of the Middle Sarmatian

It contains a number of three floras: Hârşova (9 types), Buneşti (7 types) and Corni (12 types), in other words more than modest. Anyway, cumulatively, it offers us an image, even if fragmented, of the Sarmatian reality. A specific feature of these floras is the variety. Different families, genera, and species are present. The predominant genus is *Carpinus* - leaves and bracteae, then two types of *Quercus*, *Zelkova*, *Ulmus*. Rare and seldom appearing are *Liquidambar*, *Fagus*, *Juglans*, *Corylus*, *Platanus*, *Populus*, *Fraxinus*. Special mention must be made about the absence of the conifers, ferns, and especially of the important group of the Lauraceae from which only one is present, *Laurus (Persea) princeps* at Hârşova. It is a very significant fact if we compare it with the situation in Transylvania.

These plants are representatives of a mesophytic forest, of a generally equal exposition, a forest of a warm temperate climate. Some of them indicate a river meadow habitat - *Salix*, *Populus*, *Ulmus*, *Zelkova* - existent, as it seems, in all the three points.

c. Late Sarmatian flora from Păun / Iaşi

Păun village is located close to the town of Iaşi. The plants are extracted from a succession of gritstones and sands that are cropping out in the hill "La Catarg". They are well-dated by the presence of some mammal remains: *Aceratherium incisivum* Kaup., *Hipparion sarmaticum* Lungu and *Ictitherium hipparionum* Gervais. The plants appear in the form of impressions on gritstone, an improper material for conservation and an exact identification. A big part of them appear as fragments, which denotes a torrential contribution, and which question the identifications made by Macarovici and Paghida (1966). We consider acceptable the following:

Daphnogene sp.
Liquidambar europaea Al. Br.
Platanus platanifolia (Ung.) Kn.
Ulmus pyramidalis Goepp.
Cassiophyllum berenives (Ung.) Kv.
Sapindus falcifolius Al. Br.
Salix varians Goepp.
Populus populina (Ung.) Kn.
Tilia cf. *grandidentata* lacub.

In this modest tafocenosis (of only 9 types) we find, on one hand, types already mentioned in Middle Sarmatian floras, on the other hand, some interesting news: *Cassiophyllum*, *Sapindus*, *Tilia* cf. *grandidentata* - a rarity like the *Tilia* leaves in the Romanian Tertiary, but most of all an unquestionable remnant of *Daphnogene*, the second Lauraceum from the Sarmatian of Moldavia. The vegetation brought probably from close vicinity is the one of a river meadow, except for *Tilia*, *Sapindus* and *Cassiophyllum*, probably *Platanus*. This vegetation shows that during the entire Sarmatian in the whole area considered, there was a uniform mesophytic vegetation, which shows very little variation depending on the possibilities of preservation in the deposit. We must also underline a problem, namely the absence of the Lauraceae. As we indicated, from the entire Sarmatian only two Lauraceae have been cited, *Persea* and *Daphnogene*.

Tab. 4.

The conspectus of the Sarmatian flora from Moldavia

Name of the taxon	Fălticeni	Hârșova	Bunești	Corni	Comănești	Păun	dentate	entire	arctotert.	palaeotrop
<i>Acer ezoanum</i> Oishi et Huzioka					+		+		+	
<i>Alnus cecropiaefolia</i> (Ett.) / Berger					+		+		+	
<i>Alnus gaudini</i> (Heer) Kn. et Kv.	+						+		+	
<i>Alnus kefersteini</i> Ung.					+		+		+	
<i>Alnus latior</i> Sap.					+		+		+	
<i>Berberis</i> sp.				+			+			+
<i>Betula oxydonta</i> Sap.	+				+		+		+	
<i>Betula prisca</i> Ett.					+		+		+	
<i>Byttneriophyllum tiliaefolium</i>					+			+		+
<i>Carpinus grandis</i> Ung.	+	+	+	+	+		+		+	
<i>Carpinus pyramidalis</i> Heer		+								
<i>Carya serraefolia</i> (Goepp.) Kr.				+			+		+	
<i>Cassiophyllum berenices</i> (Ung.) Kr.						+		+		+
cf. <i>Persea princeps</i> (Heer) Schimp.		+						+		+
<i>Corylus mac-quarrii</i> Heer	+		+				+		+	
<i>Daphnogene</i> sp.						+		+		+
<i>Fagus silesiaca</i> Walt. et Zast.				+	+		+		+	
<i>Fraxinus</i> cf. <i>excelsior</i> L.			+				+		+	
<i>Glyptostrobus europaeus</i> (Brngt.)					+					
<i>Juglans acuminata</i> Al. Br.?		+					+		+	
<i>Leguminosites</i> sp.		+						+		+
<i>Liquidambar europaea</i> Al. Br.				+		+	+		+	
<i>Osmunda</i> cf. <i>regalis</i> L.	+									
<i>Osmunda pardschlugiana</i> (Ung.)					+					
<i>Parrotia pristina</i> (Ett.) Stur				+			+		+	
<i>Phragmites oeningensis</i> Al. Br.					+					
<i>Platanus leucophylla</i> (Ung.) Kn.		+				+	+		+	
<i>Populus attenuata</i> Al. Br.		+					+		+	
<i>Populus populina</i> (Ung.) Kn.		+				+	+		+	
<i>Potamogeton</i> sp.					+			+	+	
<i>Quercus pseudorobur</i> Goepp.				+			+		+	
<i>Quercus robur pliocaenica</i> Sap.			+				+		+	
<i>Rhus</i> cf. <i>pyrrae</i> Ung.		+					+		+	
<i>Salix varians</i> Goepp.				+		+	+		+	
<i>Sapindus falcifolius</i> Al. Br.						+		+		+
<i>Tilia</i> cf. <i>grandidentata</i> Jakub.						+	+		+	
<i>Ulmus pyramidalis</i> Goepp.			+	+		+	+		+	
<i>Zelkova zelkovaefolia</i> (Ung.)			+	+			+		+	

Conclusions on the Sarmatian floras

Due to the fact that the Sarmatian flora is the only one well represented in the two geographical units considered, we will refer only to it. Its essential feature is that it includes the entire Sarmatian, as compared to the one from Transylvania, which refers only to the Early Sarmatian, and possibly Middle Sarmatian. Another specific feature that we mention here is its scarcity: the one from the south of the Carpathians contains 45 taxa, the one from the east - also contains 45. But these figures compared to that of Transylvania, of 144 types, represent a minimum. In truth, as compared to the great number of types, and to the variety of those cited in Transylvania, the floras of the two geographical areas outside the Carpathians provide a minimum, which allows us to acknowledge the existence of a vegetation, without making it possible to characterize it from various points of view, as we did with the flora from inside the Carpathian arch (Givulescu 1992). Being compared between them the three floras show a particularly interesting fact: the flora from the south of the Carpathians is an extract from the flora from Transylvania. There are no significant differences between them. The flora from the east of the Carpathians is fundamentally different from the one in the other two areas mentioned, the essential difference consisting in the total absence of the Lauraceae (only *Persea* and *Daphnogene* with a single specimen each) and with a massive predominance of Betulaceae. We find the same situation in the rich and well-studied Sarmatian flora from Bursuc (Republic of Moldavia) (Givulescu 1999). Yet this one as well as those from west Moldavia abounds in remains of *Carpinus* and *Quercus*. It is obvious that in the east of the Carpathians we find another climate and, especially, that another palaeofitogeographic province is outlined, characterized, in the first place, by the absence of Lauraceae, good climate indicators. We suggest for this subprovince the name of "Moldavica", following that a more extended discussion is to be published on another occasion.

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