

Representatives of the Native Flora Preserved in the Ornamental Plant Collections of the Botanical Garden in Chisinau

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Abstract: Mobilization, research, adaptation, and conservation in ex situ conditions of plants, especially rare ones, with ornamental, medicinal, and food potential, etc., is the main task of a Botanical Garden, which aims to maintain plant diversity by creating collections of plants, fruits, and germplasm. Currently, the ornamental plant collections of the National Botanical Garden (I) constitute about 1700 intraspecific taxa, representatives of 71 families and 272 genera from the phylum Magnoliophyta and Pteridophyta. The most representative families are: Asteraceae (305 taxa), Paeoniaceae (192 taxa), Iridaceae (103), Hemerocallidaceae (63), Crassulaceae (28), Lamiaceae (26), Caryophyllaceae (22), Ranunculaceae (19), Brassicaceae (18). The ornamental plant gene pool served as the object of study in this investigation. Species names indicated according to The World Flora Online Plant List (2025). The native flora of our country is represented in the collections of the Ornamental Plants Laboratory by 166 species with decorative value: *Adonis vernalis* L., *Asparagus tenuifolius* Lam., *Aurinia saxatilis* (L.) Desv., *Clematis integrifolia* L., *C. recta* L., *Convallaria majaris* L., *Crocus reticulatus* Stev. ex Adam, *Dictamnus gymnostylis* Stev., *Digitalis lanata* Ehrh., *Hepatica nobilis* Mill., *Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench, *Hypericum perforatum* L., *Iris pontica* L., *I. pumila* L., *G. nivalis* L., *Primula veris* L., *Paeonia peregrina* Mill., *Potentilla alba* L., *Pulsatila montana* (Hoppe) Rchb., *Scilla bifolia* L., *Veratrum nigrum* L., *Vinca minor* L. etc. Of these, 34 species are certified as rare plants, in various categories of endangerment, being included in the latest edition of the Red Book of the Republic of Moldova (2015). The collections also contain some extinct species: *Scilla sibirica* Andrews and *Erythronium dens-canis* L.

Keywords: ex situ conservation; native flora; rare plants; ornamental plants collections; Republic of Moldova.

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