

Basic vegetation types of Shahdag National Park (Azerbaijan)Arzu B. MUSTAFAYEV¹, Sayyara J. IBADULLAYEVA²¹Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, Shahdag National Park²Institute of Botany of ANAS, 40 Badamdar shosse, Baku, Azerbaijan
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Aim of the study: Studying of modern conditions of vegetation of Shahdag National Park created in high mountain ecosystems of Greater Caucasus botanical-geographical region (within the Azerbaijan Republic) was the main goal of research. Classification of vegetation prevalent in mountain-forest and high mountain-meadow and meadow-steppe regions have been carried out.

Material and Methods: Shahdag National Park located in Great Caucasus botanical-geographical region within Azerbaijan Republic. The total area of the park - 130,501.5 hectares, of which approximately 93,980 hectares of forests. 36,521 hectares of area - pastures and hayfields belonging to the State Reserve Fund. Research have been carried out in all districts of Great Caucasus (Gabala, Gusar, Guba, Ismayilli, Khachmaz districts) by classical methods in 2014-2016.

Results: The bush vegetation presents by 2 formation classes, 9 formations and 14 association spread on Shahdag National Park territory on altitudes above sea level 1200-3200m, rise to the borders of subalpine and alpine zones. Forest vegetation on altitudes above sea level 1500-2700m creates points. *Quercus macranthera*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Betula pendula*, *Crataegus meyeri*, *Acer ibericum*, *Pyrus caucasica*, *Malus orientalis*, *Salix triandra* and another species are found in these forests. This vegetation type is divided into 3 formation classes, 8 formations and 17 associations. Tugay forests of region spread in the form of narrow zones along river banks. *Populus canescens*, *Ulmus minor*, *Pyrus caucasica*, *Berberis iberica*, *Tamarix meyeri*, *Rhus coriaria*, *Rubus caesius* are found here. Meadow vegetation covers all high-altitude belts along vertical zoning. 14 formation classes, 42 formations and 52 associations are spread in alluvial, meadow, under forest and after forest vegetation of meadow-brush, subalpine, alpine and alpine meadow half-type. Water-marshy vegetation is not so widespread in the study area. Marshes are formed in flat land in the places of accumulation of rainwater and close to the ground water line. Also marshes are found in high-mountain zones, near springs, natural and artificial lakes. Rock and reef vegetation type covers all mountain zones and spread in 2 formation classes (rock plants and reef plants). Oasis plants covers flat, middle mountain zone, territory of orchards and irrigated cultivated fields. Classes, formations and associations of area vegetation and their types have been appointed during the field search. Prevalence areas of vegetation and biodiversity were clarified, botanical description and phenological observations were carried out. Areas of plants distribution are revealed and prepared about 300 herbariums from regions. Ecosystem of this territory have been analyzed in modern times. 2000 flora species in and around the National park have been established, from them 32 species are included in the Red Book of Azerbaijan. Some national and international status species have been identified.

Keywords: Shahdag National Park, vegetation type.