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**Arid-rare forests of Atropatan (Azerbaijan)**

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**Aim of the study:** Arid-rare forest vegetation type is the undertype of forest vegetation and is characteristic for south dry slopes of region. Bioecological structure of region which arid-rare forest undertype is distributed is different from the regions which vegetation types is large distributed.

**Material and methods:** Phytocenoses of arid-rare forest undertype is consist of shrubs and trees. Areas which have dry climate are distributed in Nakhchivan AR, Lachin and Zangazur region of Little Caucasus, Zuvand region of Talish.

**Results:** Dominate and subdominate species of arid-rare forest which spread in researched area are: *Juniperus foetidissima*, *J. polycarpus*, *J. rufescens*, *J. oblonga*, *Crataegus orientalis*, *Pistacia mutica*, *Quercus polycarpa*, *Q. araxina*, *Acer ibericum*, *Cotinus coggygia*, *Punica granatum*, *Cerasus microcuercus*, *Fraxinus excelsior*, *Paliurus spina-christi*, *Rhamnus pallasii*, *Pyrus salicifolia*, *Lonicera iberica*, *Berberis vulgaris*, *Spiraea crehata*. Arid-rare forest undertype is divided to monodominant shrubby frignas, polydominant xerophyte shrubby formation classes and *Juniperusetum-Astracanthetum-Acantholimonosum* and *Crataegusetum-Astragalosum* formations. *Juniperusetum-Astracanthetum-Acantholimonosum* formation. At species content of formation 28 species are distributed; from them 4 species are shrubs, 2 species are subshrubs, 7 species- perennial herbs, 6 species - biennial herbs and 9 species annual herbs. On ecological forms 24 species are erophytes, 3 species are mesoxerophytes and 1 species is mesophyte. At the I layer of phytocenosis is *Juniperus pygmaea*; at II layer *Ast. microcephala*, *Achillea vermicularia*, *Stipa capillata*, *Sedum pilosum* etc., at III layer *A. hohewackeri*, *Thymus trautvetteri*, *Anisantha riparia*. *Crataegusetum-Astragalosum* formation. *Crataegusetum orientalis* phytocenosis is presented with *Astragalosum ornithopodioides* association. Dominate vegetation is *Astragalus ornithopodioides* Lam., abundance in 2-3 points and subdominate is *Crataegus orientalis* Pall. ex Bieb., abundance in 2 points. At the I layer of formation *C. orientalis*, at II layer *Ast. ornithopodioides*, at III layer *Festuca rupicola*, *Thymus trautvetteri*, *Stachys annua*, *Hypericum perforatum*, *Trifolium pratense* were spread. Dominate and subdominate species of arid-rare forest, mainly creeping kinds of junipers form a cover at shrubby areas that they protect from flooding.

**Keywords:** Arid, vegetation, formation, phytocenosis.