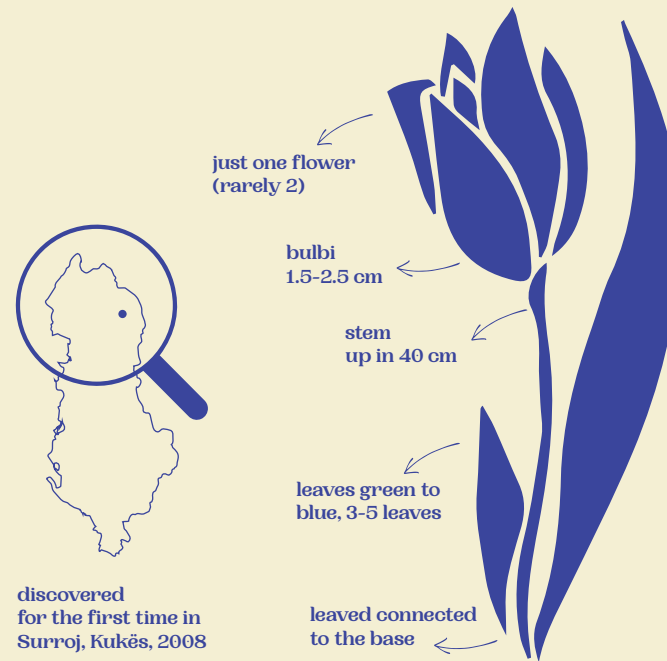


Albanian tulip

The lily family (*Liliaceae*), in Albania is represented by many species, but the most special one is the Albanian Tulip (*Tulipa albanica*). It appears in two colors, red and yellow, with leaves generally wrinkled by the high content of heavy metals in the serpentine soils where it grows. It flowers during April-May.

Did you know?

The Albanian tulip was scientifically described and named for the first time in 2008.



This species, new to science, was ranked 114th in the world list of tulips. Until the discovery of this species, there was only one species of autochthonous tulip in Albania, *T. australis*.

Like all tulips, it is a perennial herb with underground bulbs that store the plant's nutrients. The size of the bulb varies from 1.5-2.5 cm, while the stem reaches up to 40 cm. The leaves are mostly green to blue, usually 3-5, attached at the base of the stem. The tulip bears only one flower (rarely it has been observed with two).

Its preferred habitat is open and dry environments with oak forests, at altitudes of 500-1100 m above sea level.

Did you know that the Albanian Tulip is used as the official logo for the Kukës District Prefecture?



This endemic species of Albania is found only in the north-east of the country, discovered for the first time in 2008 near the village of Surroj, in Kukës. It is part of the IUCN endangered species list where it holds the status "Critically Endangered", with a declining population trend.

The quality and extent of the Albanian tulip habitat are declining as a result of mining activity, grazing and biological succession.

The Albanian tulip is the first species of our country, whose habitat holds the status of a natural monument (Category III of protected areas).

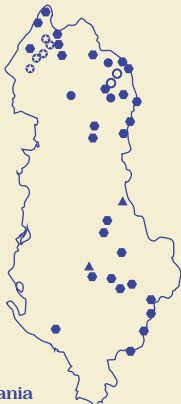
Endemic plants

Endemic plants are species found only in a certain geographical territory, which is also reflected in the name of the species. Many plants, after the name of the genus, are associated with “albanicum, albanica”, which in Latin is referred to as “Albanian”.

Endemic plants have been formed as a result of relief fragmentation or drastic geological and climate changes.

Albania is one of the European countries that stands out for its endemisms. In Albania, endemic plant species are mainly located in mountainous regions, especially in Northern and North-Eastern Albania. Nevertheless, a significant number of them are also found in lowlands of the country. Endemic plants are of great importance, starting from scientific and medicinal purposes, up to their cultivation as ornamentals.

- vascular plants
- *Tulipa albanica*
- ★ *Wulfenia baldacii*
- ◆ *Lilium albanicum*
- ▲ *Viola albanica*



Distribution of some endemic plants in Albania

Due to their limited distribution, endemic plants are easily affected from the human interventions in nature.

Most of them are endangered dhe listed in IUCN Red List of threatened species.



Status
of *Lilium
Albanicum*
in Albania



Status
of *Viola
albanica*
in Albania

Endemic plants are part of the natural heritage of our country. For this reason, all of us must try to protect them.

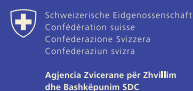
Scan these to become part of the efforts to preserve Albania's endemic plants.



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