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### ENDEMIC VASCULAR PLANTS IN THE POLISH TATRA MTS. – DISTRIBUTION AND ECOLOGY

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**Abstract:** The Tatra Mts., the highest range within the Carpathians, are the northernmost centre of endemism in Europe. Distribution, vertical ranges, orographic and edaphic factors as well as phytocoenoses of the endemic species occurring in the Polish Tatra Mts. are characterized in the paper and presented in ecodiagrams. The following 35 Pan-Carpathian, West-Carpathian and Tatra endemics are included: *Campanula polymorpha*, *C. serrata*, *Cardaminopsis neglecta*, *Centaurea mollis*, *Cerastium tatrae*, *Cochlearia tatrae*, *Crocus discolor*, *Delphinium oxysepalum*, *Dentaria glandulosa*, *Dianthus praecox*, *Erigeron nanus*, *Euphrasia tatrae*, *Festuca carpatica*, *F. tatrae*, *F. varia*, *Knautia kitaibelii*, *Leontodon pseudotaraxaci*, *Leucanthemum waldsteinii*, *Melampyrum herbichii*, *Oxytropis carpatica*, *Papaver tatricum*, *Petasites kablikianus*, *Poa granitica*, *P. nobilis*, *Pulsatilla slavica*, *Ranunculus pseudomontanus*, *Salix kitaibeliana*, *Saxifraga carpatica*, *S. wahlenbergii*, *Sesleria tatrae*, *Soldanella carpatica*, *Symphytum cordatum*, *Thymus carpaticus*, *Th. pulcherrimus*, *Trisetum fuscum*. Additionally, threats to the endemic species are analyzed, and valuation of the Tatra National Park based on endemic species distribution is provided.

**Key words:** endemics, distribution, maps, vertical ranges, phytocoenoses, habitat requirements, mountains, the Carpathians, Tatra National Park, Poland

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