

THE HISTORY OF THE 19TH CENTURY BOTANICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN SOUTH-EAST LATVIA

Uvis Suško

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The article summarizes information about the botanical investigations of the 19th century in South-east Latvia that were started by the Roman Catholic priest of Lithuanian descent and the teacher of natural history at the Ilūkste Missionary School Jūzef Fiedorowicz (1777-1860) and later continued by Eduard Lehmann (1841-1902), Theophil Bienert (1833-1873) and Karl Reinhold Kupffer (1872-1935). Smaller contributions to the investigation of flora of the region were made by the teacher of the former Grīva German School Raudsep, botanist A. Antonow as well as by doctors Christian Nicolaus Andreas Siebert (1859-1926) and Rudolph Richter (1838-1896).

Key words: history, botany, flora, Latvia.

Uvis Suško, Daugavpils University, Institute of Systematic Biology, Vienības 13, Daugavpils, LV-5401, Latvia; uvis.susko@biology.lv

Introduction

The contribution of the 19th century botanical investigations to the study of flora of South-east Latvia in its both parts – Eastern Selonia (in German – Östliches Oberkurland) and Southern Latgalia (in German – Südliches Polnisch-Livland) has been very generous and productive. Paths of several outstanding botanists of Latvia and also Lithuania have crossed here over the whole century, intertwining the influence of botanical schools of both Vilnius University (founded in 1578) and Tartu University (founded in 1632). A particular role in this intersection of scientific traditions and the history of botanical investigations refers to the Daugavpils City together with its former suburb town of Grīva.

Investigations of Eastern Selonia and Southern Latgalia by Jūzef Fiedorowicz in 1818 – 1851

The first botanical investigations in Selonia – in the vicinity of the Ilūkste Town (in Lithuanian called also Ilukšta, Ilūkstė, Alūksta, in Polish – Hłuszcza) were begun in 1818 and at least in 1824 also around the Kalupe Village in Latgalia by the Roman Catholic priest of Lithuanian descent and the long-time teacher of natural history at the Ilūkste Missionary School Jūzef Fiedorowicz (in Lithuanian called also Juozapas or Juozas Fedoravičius, in Latvian – Jāzeps or Jozefs Fedorovičs). He was born on the 13th of February in 1777 (Old Style) in the family of boyars in the Šakyna Parish in Žemaitija Province of Lithuania that today is located about 15 kilometres from the Latvian – Lithuanian border near Ukri. In 1807 at the age of 30 he graduated from the famous Kražiai Grammar School in Lithuania and in 1808 entered the Congregation of the Mission of Lazarists (founded by St. Vincent de Paul in 1625) and its lead Vilnius Theological Seminary of the Saviour's Mount (Giżycki 1909, Dagys 1938, Biržiška 1940). In 1810 while still studying at the

seminary he was sent as a cleric to the Ilūkste Town where in 1811 he concluded his theological studies in the former Ilūkste Jesuit Monastery (building constructed in 1769 and preserved until today, *Fig. 1*) and was ordained a priest in the famous Ilūkste Jesuit Church of St. Ursula (*Fig. 2*). It is worth to mention that this was the most beautiful Jesuit church in the Baltic constructed in 1769, but, unfortunately, partly destroyed during the World War I in 1914 while its last ruins were completely destroyed by the Soviet Rule in 1955 (Svilāns 1995, Kaminska & Bistere 2006, Ogle 2008). From 1810 till 1835, until the closure of the school by the Tsarist Rule, he was working as a teacher of natural sciences at the Ilūkste Missionary School run most probably in the building of the former Ilūkste Jesuit Monastery, in the visitation of 1819 he is mentioned as the prefect of the Ilūkste Jesuit Church of St. Ursula, from 1828 till 1849 he served as a vicar, but from 1850 until the end of his life as a monsignor at the Ilūkste Jesuit Church of St. Ursula. Priest J. Fiedorowicz passed away on the 4th of April in 1860 in Ilūkste at the age of 83. The most productive 50 years of his life (1810-1860) were spent in Ilūkste. He is buried at the Ilūkste Catholic Cemetery and his memory is honoured here (*Fig. 3*).

J. Fiedorowicz devoted altogether 33 years of his life to the investigation of flora of surroundings far and near around Ilūkste. Owing to his investigations, it can be surely admitted that in the 1st half of the 19th century the Ilūkste District became the best investigated region in Latvia as well as one of the most thoroughly studied territories in the whole Baltic (Suško 1997, 2007, Suško & Evarts-Bunders 2008). Part of his investigations was carried out also in Latgalia and its former Daugavpils District in particular as well as in the present territory of Lithuania and Belarus along the Latvian border. J. Fiedorowicz carried out his investigations in close cooperation with the well-known Lithuanian botanists of that time, mainly together with his contemporary, the Professor of Pharmacy at the Vilnius University Jan Frederyk Wolfgang (1776-1859) (Babicz & Grębecka 1988). Investigations by J. Fiedorowicz are summarized in 2 manuscripts

written in Polish. The first of them was completed in 1830 and has a title “Katalog roślin około Iłukszty znalezionych i zdeterminowanych przez ks. Józefa Fiedorowicza nauczyciela historii naturalnej w szkole Iłuksztańskiej porządkiem Linneusza i nazwiskami jego, roku 1830 zrobiony” (Fiedorowicz 1830). This manuscript together with 36 other botanical manuscripts concerning the flora of the western regions of the Russian Empire was donated in 1875 to the library of the Kiev Nature Researchers’ Society and might still be preserved in a library there (Paczoski 1896). The other manuscript – “Katalog roślin dziko rosnących i niektórych przyswojonych około Iłukszty przez X. Jozefa Fiedorowicza od roku 1818 aż dotąd postrzeżonych i zadeterminowanych, według układu Linneusza roku 1851. napisany. Nazwiska roślin połacinie, popolsku i politewsku“ was completed and signed by the author on the 5th of July in 1851. At the 2nd half of 1930s it was unexpectedly discovered at the library of the Kaunas Theological Seminary, but today is kept at the National Library of Lithuania in Vilnius (Dagys 1938, Suško 1997, 2007). It is 2 times thicker than the manuscript of 1830 and contains altogether 88 pages. In this manuscript J. Fiedorowicz has included altogether 962 taxa found in the Ilūkste District and its surroundings represented by 868 flowering plants, 23 pteridophytes, 14 bryophytes, 24 lichens, 28 fungi and 5 algae (Fiedorowicz 1851, Dagys 1938, Galinis 1968, Suško 1997, 2007). A certain part of species found by J. Fiedorowicz represent also garden and decorative plants of that time. J. Fiedorowicz also carefully collected herbarium that was regularly sent to Vilnius University to Prof. J. F. Wolfgang (Fiedorowicz 1822-1831). He has gathered altogether about 1000 herbarium specimens of which about 120 ones are still kept at the Vilnius University, but the rest could have preserved in Kiev where it was brought out during different political unrest (Regelis 1939, Zinkus 1978, Natkevičaitė-Ivanauskienė 1994, Suško 1997, 1998, 2007). As testified by the report of 1826, there was also a school herbarium of 886 specimens kept at the Ilūkste Missionary School collected both by J. Fiedorowicz and his pupils and used in teaching botany (Giżycki 1909). He



Fig. 1. The building of the former Jesuit Monastery in the Ilūkste Town (built in 1769). Photo by the author, the 9th of November, 2004.

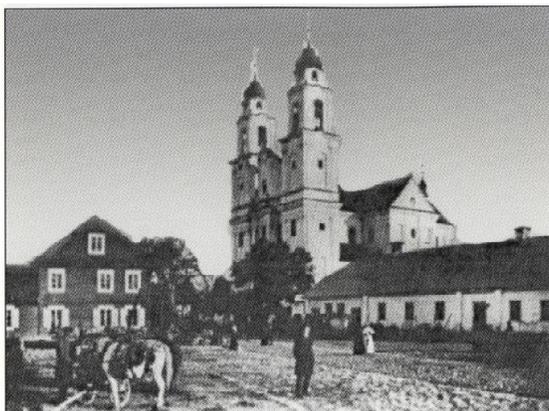


Fig. 2. The Ilūkste Jesuit Church of St. Ursula shortly before its destruction in 1913 (built in 1769, partly destroyed in 1914, last ruins destroyed in 1955). The collection of the Heritage Documentation Centre of the Latvian State Inspection for Heritage Protection.

had arranged a rich botanical garden at the school, later also a meteorological station (Biržiška 1940). In his investigations J. Fiedorowicz paid great attention to the geographical peculiarities of the Baltic flora, characterized the use of plants in different fields, e.g., medicine, food, greenery as well as their use in folk traditions (Babicz & Grębecka 1988). He indicates, for example, that on the Palm Sunday Latvian women from the Līksna Village and the Nīcgale Village along with other herbs bring to the church also mistletoes

(Fiedorowicz 1851). He carried out also different experiments trying to acclimatize plants characteristic of other regions in the garden and watching their growth, for example, the Baltic Ivy *Hedera helix* var. *baltica*.

J. Fiedorowicz has found many species for the first time in the territory of Latvia, for example, the Hairy St. John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum*, the Hairy Chervil *Chaerophyllum hirsutum*, the Ghost Orchid *Epipogium aphyllum*, the Sharp-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton acutifolius*, the Floating Water-nut *Trapa natans*, the Lesser Hairy-brome *Bromopsis benekenii*, the Bohemian Crane's-bill *Geranium bohemicum*, the Mistletoe *Viscum album* and others. The oldest herbarium specimens collected by J. Fiedorowicz and kept at the Vilnius University are the Hairy St. John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum* found in 1823 in the vicinity of Ilūkste and the Floating Water-nut *Trapa natans* found in 1824 in Lake Kalupes not far from the Daugavpils City (Suško 2002, Suško & Evarts-Bunders 2008). After a grass herbarium collected by J. Fiedorowicz in 1825 not far from Ilūkste in the vicinity of Dvieta



Fig. 3. Lithuanian and Latvian botanists – participants of the 22nd Expedition of the Baltic Botanists at the resting place of the first botanist of South-east Latvia – the Roman Catholic priest Jūzef Fiedorowicz at the Ilūkste Catholic Cemetary – Dr. Zofija Sinkevičienė (Lithuania), Dr. Valerijus Rašomavičius (Lithuania), Uvis Suško (Latvia) and Dr. Ilona Jukonienė (Lithuania) (from left to right). Photo by Jaanus Paal, the 16th of July, 2008

the famous Lithuanian botanist Stanislaw Batys Gorsky (1802 – 1864) described in 1849 a new species for the science – the Northern Sweet-grass *Glyceria lithuanica* (Gorski) Gorski. It is interesting that several rare plant species found by J. Fiedorowicz in 1823 – 1833 are still growing in their old localities, for example, the Hairy St. John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum* and the Lesser Hairy-brome *Bromopsis benekenii* in the vicinity of Pilskalne, the Bohemian Crane's-bill *Geranium bohemicum* in the forest at Rauda, *Thesium ebracteatum* in the vicinity of Dviete and the Ramsons *Allium ursinum* in the vicinity of Nīcgale. Along with the floristic investigations J. Fiedorowicz gathered from the local people Lithuanian plant names (among them there are also several Latvian plant names) as well as constructed them himself (Dagys 1938). Twelve letters written by J. Fiedorowicz to Professor J. F. Wolfgang have preserved (kept today in Vilnius) and, judging by them, the priest of Ilūkste has been an enthusiastic and a very gifted botanist (Fiedorowicz 1822-1831). In his book about the missionary priests of Ilūkste the well-known Catholic historian Jan Marek Giżycki (1844-1925) who had personally met father JüzeF Fiedorowicz characterizes him as follows (Giżycki 1909): “A very well-known and honourable personality having spent about 50 years in Ilūkste, being engaged in different fields and always with enthusiasm and contribution. Botany was his beloved occupation, in which he worked most diligently and his investigations in this field made him known by different scientists of that time with whom he corresponded and who referred to his knowledge with appreciation and even definite achievements in regard to the local flora. [...] After the closure of schools he continued to be engaged in research devoting to that all his spare time of the priesthood duties.” Judging by his great contribution, the Roman Catholic priest JüzeF Fiedorowicz is to be regarded as one of the most outstanding botanists of Latvia and Lithuania as well as Selonia and Latgalia in particular.

Investigations of Eastern Selonia and the Krāslava Town by Eduard Lehmann in 1858

The next important investigations in the Ilūkste District were carried out in the summer of 1858 by the 17 years old pupil of the penultimate grade of the grammar school Eduard Lehmann (born on the 20th of May in 1841 in Rīga – died on the 5th of May in Rēzekne) who later became one of the most outstanding botanists of Latvia and Latgalia in particular. At that time longer than for a month – from the end of June till the beginning of August he stayed at his relatives at the Kalkūne Estate (in German – Kalkuhnen) close to the Grīva Town (Griwa – today a part of the Daugavpils City at the left hand side bank of River Daugava) from where he made regular excursions as far as the Pilskalne Estate (Schlossberg) and the Ilūkste Town (Illuxt) in the west (where priest JüzeF Fiedorowicz was spending the last years of his life), Bruņene (Brunnen), Skrudalīna (Skrudalina), Saliēna (Sallensee) and Lielborne (Gross-Born) in the east as well as Kurcums (Kurzum), Ēģipte (Egypten) and Kumpinišķi (Kumpinischki) in the south along the present Lithuanian border (Fig. 4). A part of his investigations in the vicinity of Smelīna (in German – Smelina, in Lithuanian – Smėlynė), Tabore (in German – Tabor, in Lithuanian – Tabaras) and the former village of Novaja Dzerevņa (in German – Nowaja Derewnja) were carried out in the present territory of Lithuania which at that time belonged to the Kurzeme Province (Kurland). One of the excursions led E. Lehmann also to the Krāslava Town (Kreslaw) located in Southern Latgalia. The results of his investigations were published in the article „Beitrag zur Kenntniss der Flora Kurlands” that was issued in 1859 by the Tartu Nature Researchers' Society (Dorpater Naturforscher-Gesellschaft) in its periodical „Archiv für die Naturkunde Liv-, Ehst- und Kurlands” (Lehmann 1859). In course of his investigations E. Lehmann found a rather considerable number of species in the concerned territory – altogether 593 taxa of vascular plant species including several very rare and new species for the territory of Latvia – the

Neottianthe *Neottianthe cucullata* in Medumi (Meddum), the Narrow-leaved Helleborine *Cephalanthera longifolia* in the vicinity of Ilūkste (Illuxt), the Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium calceolus* in the Trīskapči Forest at Kumbuļi (Trikopzy Wald bei Kummeln), the Marsh Angelica *Angelica palustris* at the shore of Lake Sventes, the Yellow Galingale *Pycreus flavescens* at shores of Lake Sventes and Lake Meduma as well as the Stygii Rush *Juncus stygius* at the shore of Lake Meduma. It should be noted that at that time E. Lehmann knew almost nothing about the great contribution by priest Jūzef Fiedorowicz to the investigation of the flora of the Ilūkste District. Also later by publishing his fundamental "Flora von Polnisch-Livland" E. Lehmann could get to know only little about the investigations by J. Fiedorowicz mediately from the works of other authors.

Investigations of Eastern Selonia by Theophil Bienert in 1860

Further investigations in the Ilūkste District were carried out already 2 years later in the 3rd decade of July and at the beginning of August in 1860 by the assistant of the director of the Tartu (Dorpat) Botanical Garden, botanist and entomologist Theophil Bienert (born on the 15th

of May in 1833 in Kandava – died on the 17th of April in 1873 in Rīga). He made investigations on the way from Slate (Schlottenhof) to Ilūkste (Illuxt), in Grīva (Griwa), Saliēna (Sallensee), Sīķele (Sieckeln), Ilgas (Ilgen) and Ezerne (Essern, at Lake Šēnheidas) (Bienert 1861). Investigations by T. Bienert were comprehensive and voluminous but, unfortunately, because of his untimely passing were not appropriately published. Nevertheless, all his most significant findings were luckily included in the "Flora von Polnisch-Livland" by E. Lehmann (Lehmann 1895). Altogether 114 plant species found by T. Bienert in the Ilūkste District are mentioned in the "Flora von Polnisch-Livland" by E. Lehmann including also several rare and very rare species, for example, the Lady's-slipper *Cypripedium calceolus*, the Eight-stamened Waterwort *Elatine hydropiper*, the Oval Spike-rush *Eleocharis ovata*, the Drug hedge Hyssop *Gratiola officinalis*, the Darnel *Lolium temulentum*, the Yellow Galingale *Pycreus flavescens* and the River-grass *Scolochloa festucacea*. Theophil Bienert is the first of botanists who studied the surroundings of Ilgas at the present Latvian – Belorussian border and altogether 43 plant species recorded by him around this place are mentioned in the "Flora von Polnisch-Livland" by E. Lehmann (Lehmann 1895).



Fig. 4. The building of the former Kalkūni Estate (Kalkuhnen) where Eduard Lehmann stayed in the summer of 1858 while making botanical excursions through the Ilūkste District. Photo by the author, the 6th of March, 2009.

Investigations of Latgalia by Eduard Lehmann in 1866 – 1902

In 1860 after the graduation from the grammar school E. Lehmann entered Tartu (Dorpat) University, however, because of material considerations did not choose to study biology but medicine. In 1866 he graduated from the university and already as a general practitioner settled in the Varakļāni Town (in German – Warkland) where he could start his great work of the research of the Latgalian flora (Kupffer 1902, Suško 1993, Fatare 1994, Viksna 2004). Here he got married in 1872 and already in 1874 resettled to the nearby district town of Rēzekne (in German – Rositen). In the beginning he had thought to stay in the Rēzekne Town only for some years and to

resettle later to a larger city, the best of all to Riga, however, the material conditions luckily forced him to stay up to the end of his life in this town that he grew fond of more and more. In course of 17 years from 1866 till 1882 the investigations of the Latgalian flora by E. Lehmann were for the most part accidental and occurred by calling his patients or by strolling around. Thanks to the ever deepening friendship with the well-known Baltic botanist Johann Klinge (born on the 1st of April in 1851 in Tartu (Dorpat) – died on the 18th of February in 1902 in St. Petersburg) starting approximately by 1882 the investigations by E. Lehmann became more intensive and purposeful (Kupffer 1902). He started to make regular excursions in all the directions around the Rēzekne Town, 17 stations of the railway lines St. Petersburg – Warsaw, Riga – Dvinsk (Daugavpils) and Dvinsk (Daugavpils) – Witebsk, also around many estates as well as outside the 3 historical Latgalian Districts of that time – the Daugavpils (Dvinsk, Dünaburg) District, the Ludza (Ljuzin, Ludsen) District and the Rēzekne (Rjeshiza, Rositen) District. Johann Klinge also for several times continuously stayed at him in the Rēzekne Town from where they carried out joint excursions. One of such excursions was performed, for example, in May and June of 1890 in the valley of River Daugava at the Krāslava Town (Kreslaw), the other in the summer of 1891 together with the well-known Swedish phytopalaeontologist A. G. Nathorst in the vicinity of the Rēzekne Town (Rositen). The extensive and long-term investigations of the Latgalian flora by E. Lehmann were summarized in 1895 and published in his voluminous work – „Flora von Polnisch-Livland mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Florengebiete Nordwest-Russlands, des Ostbalticums, der Gouvernements Pskow und St. Petersburg sowie der Verbreitung der Pflanzen durch Eisenbahnen” (Lehmann 1895). In this work E. Lehmann also summarized all the available data about the flora of all the surrounding provinces of Latgalia as well as was the first of botanists who started to study the distribution of plants along the railways (Kupffer 1902, Suško 1993, Fatare 1994). In his flora E. Lehmann indicates altogether 819 vascular plant species for Latgalia including their 336 varieties, 48 forms as well as 33 plant species run wild, i. e.,

altogether 1236 taxa. It is important to mention that the number of vascular plant species indicated for Latgalia is for 72 species smaller than that indicated by J. Fiedorowicz (1851) in the flora of the Ilūkste District. Taking into the consideration the whole Latgalia together with its neighbouring provinces E. Lehmann indicates altogether 1338 plant species including their 767 varieties, 183 forms as well as 146 plant species run wild, i. e., altogether 2434 taxa. The „Flora von Polnisch-Livland mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Florengebiete Nordwest-Russlands, des Ostbalticums, der Gouvernements Pskow und St. Petersburg sowie der Verbreitung der Pflanzen durch Eisenbahnen” by E. Lehmann won wide recognition in the circle of botanists. Thanks to that just after a year in 1896 he could publish the first addition to his flora – „Nachtrag (I) zur Flora von Polnisch-Livland mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Florengebiete Nordwest-Russlands, des Ostbalticums, der Gouvernements Pskow und St. Petersburg sowie der Verbreitung der Pflanzen durch Eisenbahnen” (Lehmann 1896). Up to the last months of his life Eduard Lehmann continued his work at the next additions to his Latgalian flora, however, the untimely passing of him on the 5th of May in 1902 stopped this work and further additions to the flora could not be published any more. Even today the „Flora von Polnisch-Livland mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Florengebiete Nordwest-Russlands, des Ostbalticums, der Gouvernements Pskow und St. Petersburg sowie der Verbreitung der Pflanzen durch Eisenbahnen” by E. Lehmann serves as a very important source of information and knowledge for botanists (Suško 1993, Fatare 1994).

Investigations of Eastern Selonian and the Daugavpils City by Karl Reinhold Kupffer in 1888 – 1899

The last of the well-known researchers of the Selonian flora is the outstanding Baltic botanist, the author of several books and many articles, the Professor and Doctor of Philosophy Karl Reinhold Kupffer (born on the 25th (13th) of March in 1872 in Bessarabia – died on the 14th of

November in Rīga) who in course of his fruitful lifetime has gathered one of the largest herbarium collections in the Baltic – Herbarium Balticum containing about 26450 herbarium specimens (kept today at the University of Latvia). After the return from Bessarabia to their homeland in the beginning the parents of K. R. Kupffer settled in 1879 in the Rudbārži Village (in German – Rudbahren), but then in 1883 resettled to the Grīva Town (Griwa) in Selonia that with its beautiful surroundings for many years became the cradle of the scientific activity of K. R. Kupffer (*Meder 1937*). In the Grīva Town K. R. Kupffer learned for several years in the Grīva German School (today the Jānis Rainis Daugavpils Secondary School No. 6, *Fig. 5*), after that from 1886 till 1889 in the Nicholas Grammar School in the Liepāja City (Libau). In the autumn of 1889 K. R. Kupffer entered Tartu (Dorpat) University and chose to simultaneously study two specialities – botany and mathematics. In 1893 on Christmas time he graduated this university as a double science candidate in both specialities. Still by studying in Liepāja (Libau) and Tartu (Dorpat) K. R. Kupffer regularly returned to Grīva to spend his vacations and from where for many seasons he diligently studied the Selonian flora in the local vicinity. Having graduated from the Tartu University and already since the January of 1894



Fig. 5. The building of the former Grīva (Griwa) German School (today the Jānis Rainis Daugavpils Secondary Schools No. 6) where Karl Reinhold Kupffer learned from 1883 till 1886. *Photo by the author, the 19th of February, 2009.*

having started to work as an assistant at the Rīga Polytechnic, K. R. Kupffer also in this year went to Grīva and continued to study the rich flora of Eastern Selonia visiting on his way also the Daugavpils City. All the most important findings from the youth periode of K. R. Kupffer are included in the „Flora von Polnisch-Livland mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Florengebiete Nordwest-Russlands, des Ostbalticums, der Gouvernements Pskow und St. Petersburg sowie der Verbreitung der Pflanzen durch Eisenbahnen” by E. Lehmann (1895). Very important expeditions over the whole territory of the Ilūkste District were carried out by K. R. Kupffer in the summer of 1898 and 1899. So, in the second half of the summer in 1898 K. R. Kupffer settled in the Grīva Town from where by bicycle, on foot or rarely by train he travelled over the largest part of the Ilūkste District, starting from the Varnaviči Estate (Warnowitz) at its east end as far as Demene (Demmen) and Lake Dārza (Gartensee) in the south, Ēģipte (Egypten) and Kumpinišķi (Kumpinischki) in the south-west and Ilūkste (Illuxt) and Pilskalne (Schlossberg) in the north-west. After that he settled for several weeks in the Jēkabpils Town (Jacobstadt) from where he continued to study the flora of the Ilūkste District in the vicinity of Subate (Subbat) and Laši (Lassen). On Whitsuntide of 1899 K. R. Kupffer made a trip for several days to the large forest tract between Dunava (Podunai) and Bebrene (Bewern). The rich results of both expeditions were published in 1899 in the 42nd edition of the Rīga Nature Researchers’ Society’s (Naturforscher-Verein zu Riga) almanac „Korrespondenzblatt des Naturforscher-Vereins zu Riga” in his article „Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Gefässpflanzenflora Kurlands” (Kupffer 1899).

Other investigations of Eastern Selonia and the Daugavpils City

In the last quarter of the 19th century small floristic investigations in the Daugavpils City, the Grīva Town and their vicinity were carried out by the Estonian descent teacher of the former Grīva German School Raudsep (coming

from Tartu or Dorpat) who had taught also the young K. R. Kupffer (Lehmann 1895, Meder 1937). It is worth to mention that all his life K. R. Kupffer was grateful to him for the received knowledge. In 1887 also a botanist from St. Petersburg A. Antonow had been collecting plants in the Daugavpils City when studying in that year the flora of the eastern part of the Witebsk Province in Latgalia. From 1885 till 1889 the doctor and a colleague E. Lehmann – Christian Nicolaus Andreas Siebert (born on the 30th of November in 1859 in Limbaži (Lemsal) – died on the 29th of December in 1926 in Liepāja (Libau)) investigated the flora of the vicinity of Subate (Subbat). Some oral data on the Selonian flora were sent in by a friend of E. Lehmann, the doctor of the Daugavpils City Rudolf Richter (born on the 16th of July in Estonia – died on the 29th October in 1896 in Daugavpils) (Lehmann 1895, Vksna 2004).

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