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EDGG Event

21st Eurasian Grassland Conference in Sofia, 19–23rd July 2026, and 23rd EDGG Field Workshop in the Pirin Mountains, 14–18th July 2026

Second Call

Like 2025 in Finland, also this year, EDGG will combine the [Eurasian Grassland Conference \(EGC\)](#) with one of the annual [EDGG Field Workshops](#). This allows members to participate in both events while having costs and carbon footprint of travel only once. The 23rd EDGG Field Workshop takes place immediately before the Eurasian Grassland Conference – with a one day break in between – and will also start and

end in Sofia. One can register for both events combined, only for the EGC or only for the Field Workshop. Likewise, there is a joint Travel Grant Application. Below you can find the first details of the 21st Eurasian Grassland Conference, then details on the 23rd EDGG Field Workshop, followed by information on the fees, travel grants and application procedure for both events, and finally travel information.

21st Eurasian Grassland Conference “Connecting science and conservation for grassland sustainability” (Sofia, 19–23 July 2026)

General information

The 21st Eurasian Grassland Conference will be held in Sofia on 19–23rd July 2026, organised by the [Eurasian Dry Grassland Group \(EDGG\)](#), a working group of the [International Association for Vegetation Science \(IAVS\)](#). EDGG is devoted to research on, and conservation of, natural and semi-natural grasslands throughout the Palaeartic biogeographic realm and deals with any taxonomic group (plants/vegetation, animals or fungi). With the main theme “**Connecting science and conservation for grassland sustainability**”, we aim to highlight the connection of studies on grassland ecosystems with management practices and conservation goals. This year’s Eurasian Grassland Conference will be hosted by the [Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research \(IBER\)](#) at the [Bulgarian Academy of Sciences \(BAS\)](#). IBER conducts research in fundamental and applied ecology, biodiversity, nature conservation and the sustainable use of biological resources. IBER trains PhD students in the fields of botany, mycology, zoology, ecology, conservation biology and environmental genetics. IBER also provides scientific and methodological support to state institutions and NGOs.



View of part of the city center of Sofia.

Venue

The city of Sofia is the capital and largest city of Bulgaria, situated in the center of the Balkan Peninsula, with a population of 1.5 million people. Geographically, it lies in the Sofia Valley, surrounded by the Vitosha, Lyulin, Lozenska and Balkan Mountains.

The city of Sofia has a long history, dating back to the 7th millennium BC, with a rich past as the Roman city of Serdica, the Bulgarian stronghold of Sredets, and an Ottoman provincial capital, before becoming the capital of modern Bulgaria in 1879. Today, Sofia combines vibrant culture, rich history and contemporary urban charm. One could enjoy exploring Roman ruins at the archaeological complex of Serdica, the city's Orthodox heritage, like the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the 4th-century St. George Rotunda and the medieval St. Petka Temple, along with a variety of city parks, like the Borisova Garden, South Park, the City Garden in front of the National Theater, etc.

The conference will be held in the Hemus hotel. The hotel is located near one of the city's largest green spaces, South Park. It is close to the European Union metro station (3-5 minutes walk), making it easy to reach the central part of Sofia.



Hemus Hotel.

Scientific Programme

Within the main theme "**Connecting science and conservation for grassland sustainability**", the conference will feature seven main topics (session):

- Conservation, restoration, and management of Palaeartic grasslands
- Global change in Palaeartic grasslands
- Patterns, classification, and biogeography of Palaeartic grasslands
- Ecosystem functions, services, and trophic interactions
- Animals in Palaeartic grasslands
- Grasslands of the Balkan Peninsula
- Innovative methods, experimental approaches, and open science in grassland research

Within each of these thematic sessions, both oral and poster contributions are welcome. Additionally, posters on any other aspect related to Palaeartic grasslands are welcome.

Keynote speakers

Each half-day of the conference will be opened with a keynote talk by a renowned grassland specialist:

- **Renata Čušterevska** (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje, North Macedonia)
Grassland syntaxonomy and ecological patterns in the Central Balkans (Grasslands of the Balkan Peninsula).
- **Balázs Deák** (HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research, Hungary)
Vanishing agrobiodiversity and the growing importance of small grassland fragments: the potential of Eurasian burial mounds in EU-level conservation and restoration policies (Conservation, restoration, and management of Palaeartic grasslands).
- **Iwona Dembicz** (University of Warsaw, Poland)
Ecological scaling laws in Palaeartic grasslands: insights from EDGG Field Workshops and the GrassPlot database (Innovative methods and open science in grassland research).
- **Jürgen Dengler** (Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), Wädenswil, Switzerland)
Global change in the European grasslands – insights from local to continental studies (Global change in Palaeartic grasslands).
- **Ljiljana Tomović** (University of Belgrade, Serbia & Macedonian Ecological Society, Skopje, North Macedonia)
Distribution and conservation of reptiles in steppe, semi-arid and high-mountain pastures in Serbia and North Macedonia (Animals in Palaeartic grasslands).
- **Borys Assyov** (Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria)
Tackling the unknown. Studying and conserving fungi in sand dunes (Ecosystem functions, services, and trophic interactions).

Preliminary time schedule

- 19th July (evening) – Registration, Welcome reception (icebreaker)
- 20th July – Registration, Opening ceremony, day 1 of the scientific programme

Mid-conference excursion

The Mid-conference excursion will take place in [Vitosha Nature Park](#) and Natura 2000 SCI Vitosha (BG0000113), Vitosha Mt. The Vitosha Nature Park is located in the immediate vicinity of the capital city Sofia and is the oldest Nature Park on the Balkan Peninsula (founded in 1934, with an area of over 270 km²) and it also falls within the boundaries of the NATURA 2000 network of Bulgaria.

The Vitosha Nature Park includes two Nature Reserves: [Bis-trishko Branishte](#) and [Torfeno Branishte](#). During the excursion, we will experience the beautiful landscape of the Torfeno Branishte Reserve, composed of diverse meadow, scrub and mire ecosystems.

The Vitosha Mountain is characterized by a rich and diverse flora, vegetation and natural habitats, forming five altitudinal vegetation zones, including deciduous and coniferous forests and subalpine vegetation. Five vertical vegetation zones have been formed:

1. Xerothermic oak forest zone (up to about 650 m a.s.l.)
2. Meso-xerophitic zone of oak and hornbeam forests (between 650 and 800 m a.s.l.)
3. Beech zone (between 800 and 1600 m a.s.l.)
4. Coniferous zone (between [1500] 1600 and 1800 [1900] m a.s.l.)
5. Subalpine sparse forest and scrublands of dwarf pine and juniper (subalpine zone) (between 1900 and 2290 m a.s.l.).

- 21st July – Day 2 of scientific programme, Grassland Party
- 22nd July – Mid-conference excursion to Vitosha Natural Park
- 23rd July – Day 3 of the scientific programme, EDGG Business Meeting, city tour

Within the mountain's borders, 528 species of algae, 326 bryophytes, 369 lichenised fungi, 664 other macrofungi, and approximately 1859 vascular plants have been recorded. Eighty-four of these have conservation status, of which 59 are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria (14 "Endangered" and 45 "Vulnerable"). The endemic species are represented by 19 Bulgarian and 71 Balkan endemics (such as *Pinus peuce*, *Alchemilla bulgarica*, *Acer heldreichii*, *Aquilegia aurea*, *Sempervivum velenovskyi*, *Angelica pancicii*, *Senecio pancicici*, etc.).

The xerothermic and meso-xerothermic oak forests cover significant areas of the mountain and are heavily influenced by anthropogenic activity. Their composition includes various species of oak (*Quercus pubescens*, *Q. cerris*, *Q. daleschampii*), as well as *Carpinus betulus*, *C. orientalis*, *Acer campestre* and *Fraxinus ornus*. *Quercus daleschampii* forms more significant stands in the upper part of this zone. The predominant part of these forests is of coppice origin. The beech forest zone has a homogeneous species composition. Apart from *Fagus sylvatica*, other frequently encountered species are *Acer campestre*, *A. pseudoplatanus*, *Tilia platyphyllos*, *Quercus daleschampii* and *Carpinus betulus*. The coniferous forests occupy barely 5% of the park's area and are primarily composed of Norway spruce (*Picea abies*). The subalpine zone develops above the treeline and is formed by scrub communities of various blueberry species (*Vaccinium myrtillus*, *V. arctostaphyllum*), *Bruckenthalia spiculifolia* and *Juniperus sibirica*, along with grass-dominated phytocoenoses, typically featuring *Sesleria comosa*, *Nardus*



Aquilegia aurea, Vitosha Mt. Photo: B. Assyov.



Viola dacica, Vitosha Mt. Photo: B. Assyov.

stricta and *Festuca valida*. Mire ecosystems are found in the subalpine zone of the mountain, with significant portions of them falling within the two reserves. Their composition includes phytocoenoses dominated by *Deschampsia caespitosa*, *Molinia caerulea*, *Carex nigra*, *C. acuta*, and various peat mosses (*Sphagnum* spp.).

During the mid-conference excursion, we will visit the meadow, scrub, and mire ecosystems within the Torfeno Branishte Reserve (The Peat Reserve). It is characterised by high species diversity. Widely distributed species include *Geum coccineum*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Gentiana nivalis*, *Saxi-*

fraga stellaris, *Caltha palustris*, *Ranunculus montanus*, *Carex echinata*, *C. nigra*, *Cardamine rivularis* and *Dactylorhiza cordigera*. Amongst the rare representatives of plants are two insectivorous species: *Pinguicula balcanica* and *Drosera rotundifolia*. There are also the Balkan endemics *Angelica pancicii*, *Senecio pancicii* and *Pseudorchis frivaldii*, as well as the Bulgarian endemic *Primula farinosa* subsp. *exigua*. A total of 12 species from the flora of Torfeno Branishte Reserve are included in the Red Book of Bulgaria under the "Vulnerable" category, including *Leontodon rilaense*, *Utricularia minor*, *Potentilla palustris* and *Menyanthes trifoliata*.



Lilium jankae, Vitosha Mt. Photo: B. Assyov.

Organisation and support of the conference

Organizing committee: Kiril Vassilev, Iva Apostolova, Nikolay Velev, Desislava Sopotlieva, Magdalena Valcheva, Tsvetelina Terziyska, Beloslava Genova, Lyubka Dancheva.

Scientific committee: Kiril Vassilev (Bulgaria), Iva Apostolova (Bulgaria), Nikolay Velev (Bulgaria), Desislava Sopotlieva (Bulgaria), Borys Assyov (Bulgaria), Jürgen Dengler (Switzerland), Denys Vynokurov (Ukraine, Germany), Stephen Venn (Finland), Idoia Biurrun (Spain), Rocco Labadessa (Italy).

Conference sponsor: [Pensoft](#) is an independent academic publishing company, well known worldwide for its novel cutting-edge publishing tools, workflows and methods for

text and data publishing. Pensoft publishes nearly 100 international journals, more than 800 book titles and conference materials. Pensoft publishes exclusively open access (OA) and is a strong protagonist in the open access movement. Pensoft publishes OA journals for various academic societies and institutions, including Vegetation Classification and Survey (VCS), one of the three official journals of IAVS, the mother organisation of EDGG. The company is involved in various research and technology projects to which it provides services in science communication, dissemination of research results, web and graphic design, organisation of events and others. Pensoft supports the Eurasian Grassland Conference in various ways and will be present with an information booth.

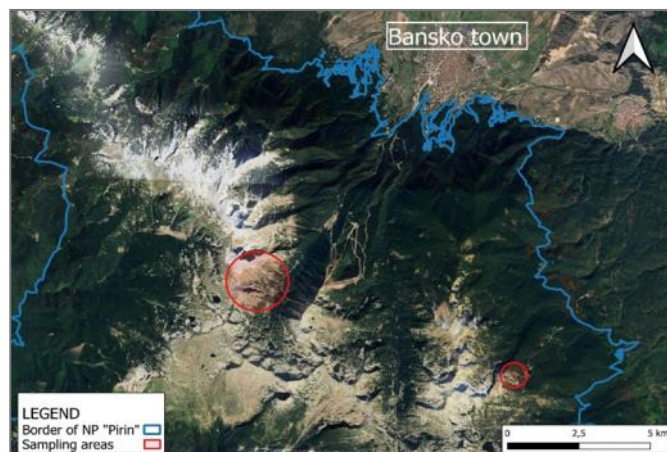
23rd EDGG Field Workshop in the Pirin Mountains (14–18 July 2026)

The 23rd EDGG Field Workshop will be conducted in the Pirin Mountains (Pirin National Park), SW Bulgaria, in the period 14–18th July. This research expedition continues the series of EDGG Field Workshops. It will take place immediately prior to the 21st Eurasian Grassland Conference. The Field Workshop will start in Sofia on 14th July and finish on the evening before the conference starts, making it possible for people to participate in both events.

In the tradition of the EDGG Field Workshops, this event will be devoted to the sampling of high-quality multi-scale and multi-taxon data on vegetation diversity (Dengler et al. 2016, 2021). While the majority of previous EDGG Field Workshops, including the 3rd EDGG Field Workshop in Bulgaria (Pedashenko et al. 2013; Dembicz et al. 2021), focused on dry grasslands (*Festuco-Brometea*, *Koelerio-Corynephoretea*, *Sedo-Scleranthetea*), we have now widened the scope to all natural and semi-natural non-forest habitats in the Palaeartic (see e.g. Dengler et al. 2020; Skobel et al. 2026).

Our sampling in the Pirin Mountains will primarily focus on subalpine and alpine grassland habitats on both acidic and base-rich bedrock, but may also extend to other open habitats, such as heathlands, screes, mires, or tall-forb communities, as was done during the two recent Swiss alpine Field Workshops (Dengler et al. 2020). As usual, we will sample not only vascular plants, but also bryophytes, lichenised fungi and soils, using the multi-scale approach of EDGG (Dengler et al. 2016).

The Field Workshop is open to all vegetation ecologists (Bachelor students to professors), who have good species knowledge and are interested in collaborative high-quality sampling. The generated data will be used for joint publications and contributed to the GrassPlot database (Dengler et al. 2018; Biurrun et al. 2021).



Sampling areas on the territory of the Pirin National Park.

Study area

Our study area is the Pirin Mountains and specifically the Pirin National Park, which covers a significant part of the mountain range. The Pirin National Park was established in 1962 and comprises of 404 km². On its territory, there are two Nature Reserves (“Bayuvi Dupki – Dzhindzheritsa” and “Yulen”). The territory is characterized by high habitat diversity and is part of the NATURA 2000 network in Bulgaria (BG0000209 Pirin).

Two regions are scheduled to be visited – the region of the Vihren Peak (2000–2800 m a.s.l.) and the region of the Bezbog Peak (2200–2600 m a.s.l.). The Vihren Peak is the highest peak of the Pirin Mt. at 2914 m a.s.l. The average annual rainfall is 1150 mm, and the snow cover reaches up to 3 m. The annual absolute minimum temperature goes down to –25°C, while the maximum temperature reaches 23°C. The region is dry because the peak is marble, which does not retain water. The Pirin Mountains have a very high floristic diversity. There are 1341 species of vascular plants (approx. 1/3 of the Bulgarian flora), 330 bryophytes, 424 lichenised



On the left, view of the Vihren peak region; Rocky slopes of habitat 6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands. On the right, view of the Bezbog Hut region; with habitat 6150 Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands (foreground) and habitat 4070 * Bushes with *Pinus mugo* (background). Photos: N. Velev.

fungi, 376 other macro-fungi, and several hundred species of algae. The flora of the Pirin Mountains is characterized by a high percentage of endemic species. It includes 17 locally endemic plants that are found only on this massif, 36 Bulgarian, and 110 Balkan endemics. Among the local endemics are *Papaver degenii*, *Oxytropis urumovii*, *O. kozhucharovii*, *Brassica jordanoffii*, *Arenaria pirinica*, *Erigeron vichrensis*, *Verbascum davidoffii*, *Rhinanthus javorkae*, *Thymus perinicus*. Along the road to Vihren Hut, the oldest conifer tree in Bulgaria can be seen – a specimen of *Pinus heldreichii*. Its age is estimated at more than 1300 years, and it has impressive dimensions – height 26 m, diameter 2.48 m, and circumference 7.80 m.

The sampling sites will include the following habitat types: 4060 Alpine and Boreal heaths, 4070* Bushes with *Pinus mugo*, 6150 Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands, 6170 Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands, 6230* Species-rich *Nardus* grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas, 62D0 Oro-Moesian acidophilous grasslands.

The vegetation of the targeted areas is related to the classes *Loiseleurio procumbentis-Vaccinietea*, *Roso pendulinae-Pinetea mugo*, *Juncetea trifidi*, *Elyno-Seslerietea*, and *Nardea strictae*.

Short itinerary of the Field Workshop

- **Day 1: 14 July** - Meeting in Sofia, transfer and accommodation in Bansko town. Joint sampling with introduction of the EDGG Biodiversity Plots sampling methodology on the territory of Pirin National Park (Denys Vynokurov & Jürgen Dengler).

- **Day 2: 15 July** - Sampling in the area around Vihren Hut (silicate substrate).
- **Day 3: 16 July** - Sampling in the area below Vihren Peak (calcareous substrate) and Banderitsa Hut.
- **Day 4: 17 July** - Sampling in the area around Bezbog Hut and Bezbog Peak (silicate substrate).
- **Day 5: 18 July** - Sampling in the area around Bezbog Hut (silicate substrate).

Accommodation & travelling

We will stay at the family hotel Chichin in the town of Bansko for the whole period.

The Field Workshop will start in Sofia, Bulgaria, at 8:00 on 14th July 2026. The exact meeting location will be provided to registered participants closer to the start of the event. The Field Workshop will end in Sofia at 20:00 on 18 July 2026.

Participation in the Field Workshop is limited to 20 participants in addition to the organisers. Participants are expected to contribute actively to the success of the collaborative work, both during and after the Field Workshop, by helping with identification of vascular plants, bryophytes and lichens, analyses of soil samples, data digitisation and statistical analyses.

Local Organisers: Kiril Vassilev & Nikolay Velev

EDGG Field Workshop Coordinators: Denys Vynokurov & Jürgen Dengler



Thlaspi bellidifolium. Photo: B. Assyov.



Saxifraga ferdinandi-coburgi. Photo: S. Stoyanov.

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Centaurea achtarovii. Photo: S. Stoyanov.



Viola perinensis. B. Assyov.

Registration & Fees

The registration for the 23rd EDGG Field Workshop (FW) and the 21st Eurasian Grassland Conference (EGC) will open in early February 2026. Please, visit the [conference website](#) for the latest information and fill in the [Registration Form](#) for both events. For any queries, please contact egc2026@abv.bg.

Key dates for both events

- Early-bird registration/payment EGC: until 31 March 2026
- Standard registration/payment EGC: until 20 June 2026
- Last minute registration/payment EGC: until 5 July 2026
- Abstract submission: until 10 May 2026
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 10 June 2026
- Registration FW: 15 April 2026
- Decision on FW application: 20 May 2026
- Payment FW: 15 June 2026
- Travel grant applications FW & EGC: 10 May 2026
- Travel grant decision: 31 May 2026

Applications

Conference contributions on the Eurasian Grassland Conference

Each participant can register up to one oral presentation and multiple poster presentations. The Scientific Committee reserves the right to change proposed oral presentations to poster presentations if there are too many registrations for oral presentations. Contributions must be registered until 20th May by sending authors, title and abstract using the [Word template](#).

Field Workshop

To apply for participation in the Field Workshop, please fill in the following [online form](#) until 15th April. Those who have not participated in at least three previous Field Workshops are expected to provide a short motivation letter. If the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, participants will be selected based on their motivation letters and the competencies they offer. Preference will be given to those who are able to identify bryophytes and lichens or analyse the collected soils or are willing to host one of the next Field Workshops.

Eurasian Grassland Conference fees

The fee for all participants except accompanying persons, includes the conference package (1 oral & 1 poster or 2 poster presentations, as well as conference materials), food (refreshments in the breaks and lunches on conference days, Welcome reception (Icebreaker), Grassland Party), city tour, mid-excursion.

For accompanying persons, the fee includes all of the above except the conference package.

		Early bird (15 March)	Regular price (20 June)	Last minute (5 July)
Normal price	IAVS members	300 €	330 €	350 €
	Non IAVS members	350 €	380 €	400 €
Student	IAVS members	250 €	280 €	330 €
	Non IAVS members	300 €	330 €	380 €
Accompanying person		390 €		

EDGG Field Workshop

The fees for the 23rd EDGG Field Workshop cover all costs for transfers, food and accommodation, starting at 8:00 on 14 July and ending at 20:00 on 18 July (both in Sofia). The fees are as follows:

- 350 € for students (including PhD students) who are IAVS members
- 450 € for postdocs, senior scientists, or other participants who are IAVS members
- 450 € for students (including PhD students) who are not IAVS members
- 550 € for postdocs, senior scientists, or other participants who are not IAVS members.

Payment for the Field Workshop must be made by 15th June 2026.

Payment

The registration fees should be paid through bank transfer to the following account before the given deadline (see above):

Transfer to: Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research

IBAN: BG44UNCR96603120718711

SWIFT: UNCRBGSF

UNICREDIT BULBANK, BC-BATENBERG, Sofia Bulgaria

Purpose of payment: "23rd FW 2026 - Sofia, fee Given name, Family name" or "EA Grassland Conf. 2026 - Sofia, fee Given name, Family name".

Example: "EA Grassland Conf. 2026 – Sofia, fee Kiril VASSILEV" or "23rd FW 2026 – Sofia, fee Kiril VASSILEV"

It is possible to make one transfer for both events (23rd EDGG Field Workshop & Eurasian Grassland Conference 2026). In this case the purpose for payment should be "EA Grac. Conf. 2026 & 23rd EDGG FW, Sofia).

Participants in the Field Workshop should send a copy of the bank transfer receipt to kiril5914@abv.bg (Kiril Vassilev – local organizer).

Participants in the EGC conference should send a copy of the bank transfer statement to the conference e-mail (egc2026@abv.bg).

Travel grants

Thanks to IAVS, the mother organisation of EDGG, we can offer a limited number of travel grants to IAVS members who participate in our events in Bulgaria (both or just one event). Travel grants are meant to give financial support to participants with financial constraints who make an important contribution to the events and possibly to the EDGG in general. Only persons who are IAVS members in 2026 are eligible (but IAVS membership fees are generally very low and various groups of people can even join for free). Only people travelling to/from Sofia in an environmentally friendly manner (i.e. bus, train or ferry) or flights if the distance is > 1500 km, can apply to additionally cover the travel costs. An ad hoc committee from the EDGG Executive Committee and the local organisers will decide on travel grant applications. Priority will be given to the following groups of people:

- Students or applicants from low-income countries
- Applicants who contributed actively to the management of EDGG in recent years or are involved in the organisation of the events in Sofia (e.g. session chairs, scientific committee, General Assembly)
- Participants of the Eurasian Grassland Conference who submitted a convincing abstract for an oral or poster contribution (as presenting person)
- Participants of the Field Workshop who contribute with taxonomic expertise in bryophytes or lichens, are willing to analyse the soil samples or to organise a Field Workshop within the next few years.

The application for travel grants should be submitted via our [online form](#) until 1st May 2026. The notification about the travel grant decision will be communicated within one month after the application.

IAVS support for Ukrainian scientists

In addition to the travel grants, IAVS will cover the cost of the registration fees of Ukrainian IAVS members. The respective fees are paid directly by the IAVS to the local organising committee. Additionally, Ukrainian participants can apply for travel grants to cover the costs of their travel and accommodation.

Travelling to and in Sofia & accommodation

How to reach Sofia and the venues

Sofia is easily accessible from many European cities by bus/train, or via plane, arriving at Vasil Levski Sofia Airport (SOF). Several companies offer low-cost overland connections or flights. The international bus and train stations are also well connected to the city center by metro or bus. The airport is only 10 km from the city center.

The venue of the conference will be the Hemus Hotel (Sofia 1421, 25 Cherni vrah Blvd).

Directions from Sofia International Airport (Terminal 2)

1. Exit the airport building and turn left. Walk for 1–2 minutes until you reach Sofia Airport Metro Station.
2. Enter the station and pay €0.82 by tapping your bank card at the entrance gates or by purchasing a ticket from the vending machines.
3. Take the Metro in the direction of Slivnitsa Station.
4. Travel for approximately 28 minutes (12 stops) and get off at Serdika Station.
5. Get off the train and look for signs leading you to where you change Metro lines and change to the blue M2 line in Vitosha direction.
6. Then travel for 4 minutes (2 stops) and get off at the European Union (Evropeyski Sayuz) Metro Station.
7. The hotel is across the street from the Metro station, 90 m away.



Aubrieta intermedia. Photo: B. Assyov.

Directions from the Central Railway Station

1. Exit the railway station and walk straight through the underpass.
2. Follow the signs to the Central Railway Metro Station.
3. Get on the M2 blue line in Vitosha direction and travel for 8 mins (4 stops) until you get to the European Union Metro Station.
4. Get off the Metro and exit the Station. The Hemus hotel is right across the street, 90 m away.

Moving around in Sofia

Sofia's public transport system is reliable and cheap: [metro](#), trams, trolleys, [buses](#).

Payment: Tap a debit/credit card at the POS terminal for a single travel ticket (€ 0.82).

Daily Cap: The maximum charge per day is € 2.04 (the cost of a day card), activated after the third public transport POS terminal single registration (excluding night buses). For more information about the Sofia public transport prices, see [link](#).

Navigation: Use the Movit app or Google Maps for routes.

If you prefer driving, consider using [Spark](#), a short-term car rental service that offers flexibility without the hassle of lengthy contracts. Keep in mind that the city center operates on a [zoned parking system](#).

Accommodation in Sofia

There is a diverse range of hotel accommodation available within easy reach of the city center at reasonable prices. Participants, who choose accommodation in the hotel of the

conference (Hotel Hemus) can take advantage of a discount (single room – 37€, double room – 44€ (no breakfast included); single room – 47€, double room – 64€ (with breakfast included)). To make your reservation, please send an email to marketing@hemushotels.com, mentioning as the purpose of the reservation “EA Grassland Conf. 2026 – Sofia”. For more information you can also use the reception telephone + 359 2 816 5000.

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Oxytropis urumovii. Photo: S. Stoyanov.