



Butrint / Buthrotum

Some notes to the flora of an archaeological site in southern Albania

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Geobotany meets archaeology

Butrint (Buthrotum) is situated in southern Albania at the coast of the Ionian Sea, some 15 km south of Saranda and only few kilometres east of the isle of Corfu.

The area around the antique town of Butrint (Buthrotum) shows a high diversity of habitats like Mediterranean oak forests, maquis, ruderal and artificial habitats as well as different coastal vegetation types. The map of Natural Vegetation of Europe mentions evergreen mesomediterranean holm oak forest as well as moist lowland riparian forest (Bohn & Neuhäusl 2003). The coastal vegetation belongs to the *Andrachno-Quercetum* sub-zone [Aegean sub-zone] (map by V. Glavač 1968 in Horvat; Glavač & Ellenberg 1974).

Nymphaeum inside the Butrint gymnasium





Nymphaeum (2th century AD)



Early Christian basilica

Wall flora

Dry and insolated walls: *Centranthus* cf. *longiflorus* ssp. *junceum*, *Micromeria juliana*, *Parietaria judaica*, *Phagnalon rupestre* ssp. *graecum*.

Top of the wall: *Campanula ramosissima*, *Catapodium rigidum*, *Lagurus ovatus*, *Myosotis* cf. *ramosissima*, *Rostraria cristata*, *Trifolium campestre*, *Valantia muralis*, *Veronica* cf. *arvensis*, *Vulpia* cf. *myuros*.

Old city wall and other walls (often shaded): *Anogramma leptophylla*, *Asplenium* cf. *onopteris*, *Asplenium trichomanes*, *Blackstonia perfoliata*, *Calystegia sylvatica*, *Campanula erinus*, *Campanula ramosissima*, *Campanula versicolor*, *Ficus carica* juv., *Geranium purpureum*, *Hedera helix*, *Mercurialis annua*, *Micromeria julianae*, *Oxalis corniculata*, *Parietaria judaica*, *Parietaria lusitanica*, *Polypodium cambricum*, *Quercus coccifera* juv., *Selaginella denticulata*, *Smilax aspera*, *Theligonum cynocrambe*, *Umbilicus chloranthus*, *Verbena officinalis*.



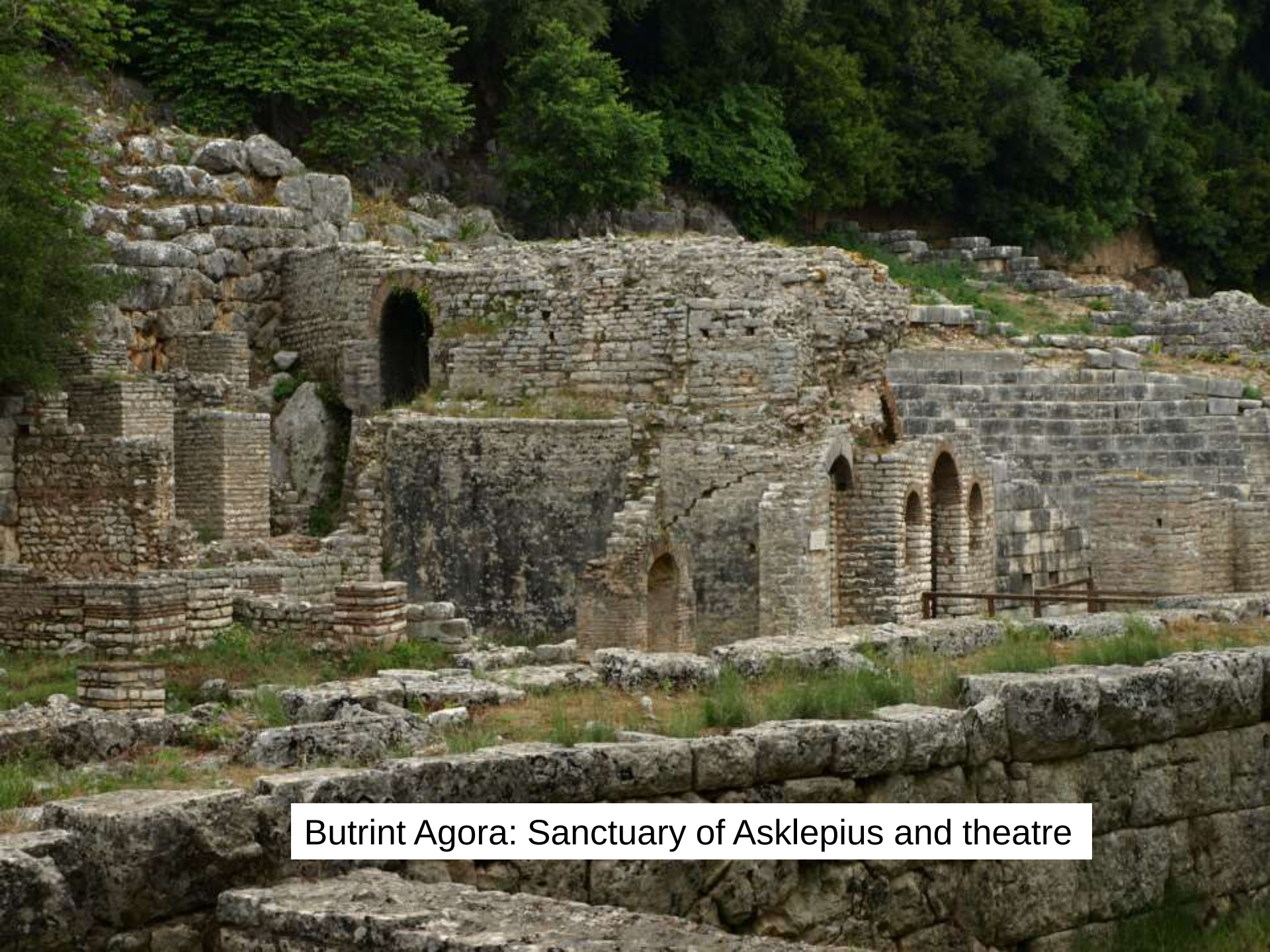
Venetian watchtower

Species of the (mostly) evergreen oak woods

Acer monspessulanus, Allium subhirsutum, Arum italicum,
Celtis australis, Cercis siliquastrum,
Ficus carica, Fraxinus angustifolius, Hedera helix,
Laurus nobilis, Melica uniflora, Melissa officinalis ssp. altissima,
Olea europaea, Orobanche hederæ, Parietaria judaica, Punica granatum,
Quercus coccifera, Quercus ilex, Quercus pubescens,
Rubia peregrina, Ruscus aculeatus,
Smilax aspera,
Tamus communis,
Ulmus minor.

Quercus ilex





Butrint Agora: Sanctuary of Asklepius and theatre



Theatre



Theatre and Sanctuary of Asclepius



Sanctuary of Asclepios



Spring near the stoa



Late antique Gate Vivari



Quercus pubescens, a deciduous species of the genus Oak

Succession starts immediately after excavation



Dioscorea communis (= *Tamus* c.)
This climbing herbaceous plant is typical of the forest understory.



Baptistery



Calystegia sylvatica climbing on old walls

Climbing plants are very common on the archaeological area



Asparagus acutifolius



Calystegia sylvatica



Hedera helix, a common liana of the forests and especially of their skirts

Notes to the flora of edges and skirts of the wood as well as of clearings

Acer cf. monspessulanum, Aegonychon purpureocaeruleum (= Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum), Asparagus acutifolius, Bryonia spec., Calystegia sylvatica, Campanula ramosissima, Clematis flammula, Dorycnium hirsutum, Euphorbia dendroides, Fumaria capreolata, Ornithogalum narbonensis, Osyris alba, Phlomis fruticosa, Spartium junceum, Smyrniolus olusatrum, Verbascum niveum ssp. visianianum

Reconstruction of the old town (2nd century AD)



[Information board for visitors of the Butrint area]

Lion's gate



Selaginella denticulata





Trifolium campestre

Centranthus cf. longiflorus



Fraxinus ornus juv.





Ephemeral wall vegetation
with *Blackstonia perfoliata*, *Anogramma leptophylla*,
Campanula erinus, *Parietaria lusitanica*



Umbilicus chloranthus
and
Parietaria lusitanica



Asplenium trichomanes



Lagurus ovatus





View from the acropolis south over the agora and the Vivari channel to the Vrina Plain

Neophytic species *Opuntia ficus-indica*





Lizard
Algyroides cf. nigropunctatus

Fumaria capreolata



Campanula ramosissima



Ruderal species of the archaeological site of Butrint

Anagallis arvensis, Anisantha madritensis, Anisantha rigida,

Bellis spec., Bunias erucago,

Capsella bursa-pastoris, Convolvulus arvensis, Convolvulus elegantissimus, Crepis rubra, Cynoglossum creticum,

Dasypyrum villosum, Dittrichia viscosa,

Echium plantagineum, Erodium malacoides, Euphorbia peplus,

Geranium brutium, Geranium molle, Glaucium flavum,

Hordeum bulbosum, Hordeum leporinum, Hirschfeldia inacana,

Lavatera cretica,

Ruderal species of the archaeological site of Butrint (continued)

Malva parviflora, Malva sylvestris, Medicago orbicularis,
Medicago polymorpha, Mercurialis annua,
Ochlopoa annua (= Poa annua), Onopordum illyricum,
Plantago coronopus, Polygonum arenastrum, Potentilla
reptans,
Ricinus communis, Rumex pulcher,
Sambucus ebulus, Scleropoa rigida, Sonchus oleraceus,
Stellaria media, Symphotrichum squamatum (= Aster
squamatus), Stachys cf. cretica,
Trifolium campestre, Trifolium resupinatum, Trifolium
tomentosum.
Verbascum niveum ssp. visianianum



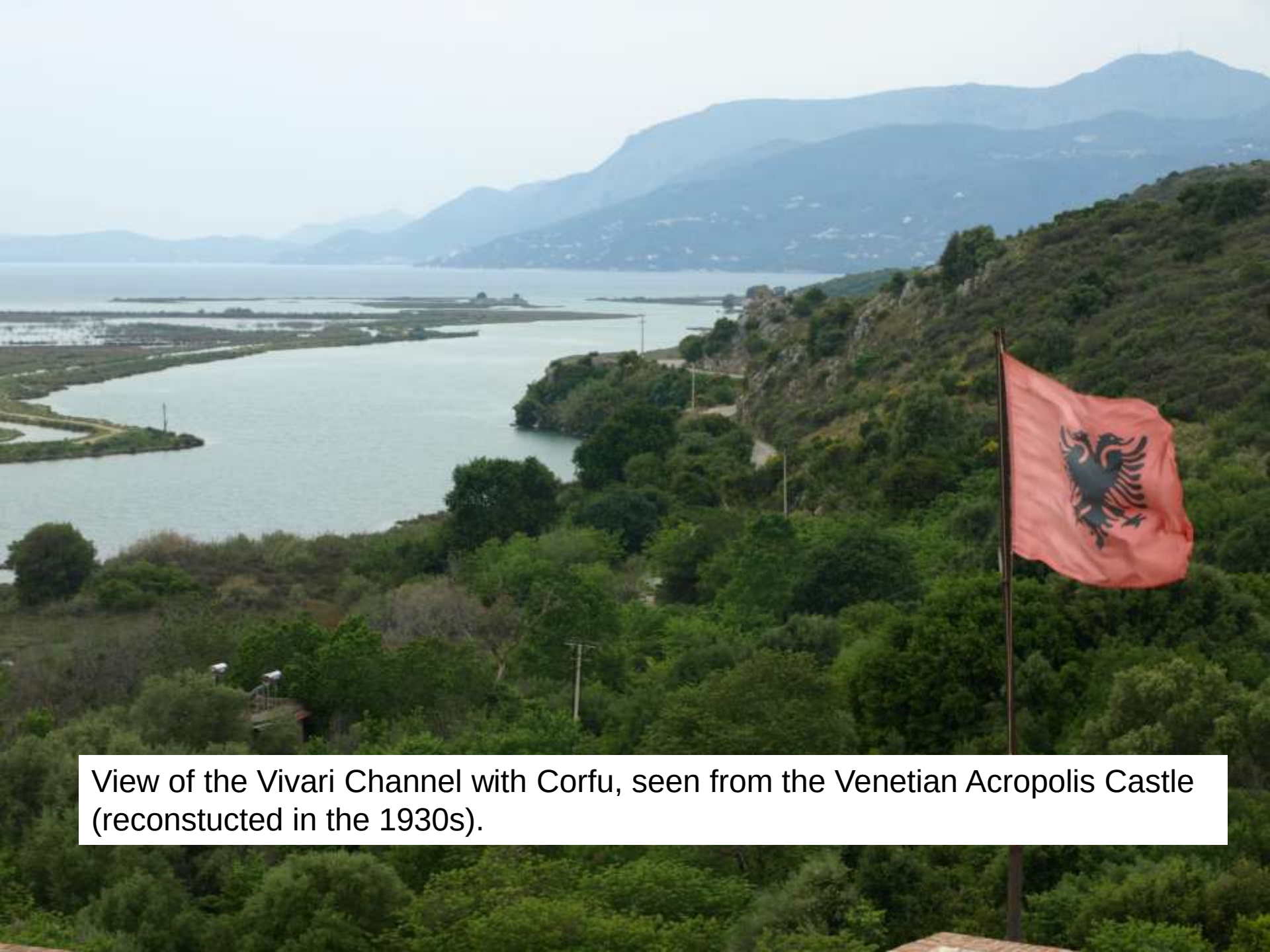
Cynoglossum creticum

Trifolium tomentosum



Hordeum bulbosum





View of the Vivari Channel with Corfu, seen from the Venetian Acropolis Castle (reconstructed in the 1930s).

Osyris alba



Dorycnium hirsutum





Ornithogalum
narbonense
(= Loncomelos n.)



Aegonychon pupurocaerulem
(= *Lithospermum pupurpurocaeruleum*)



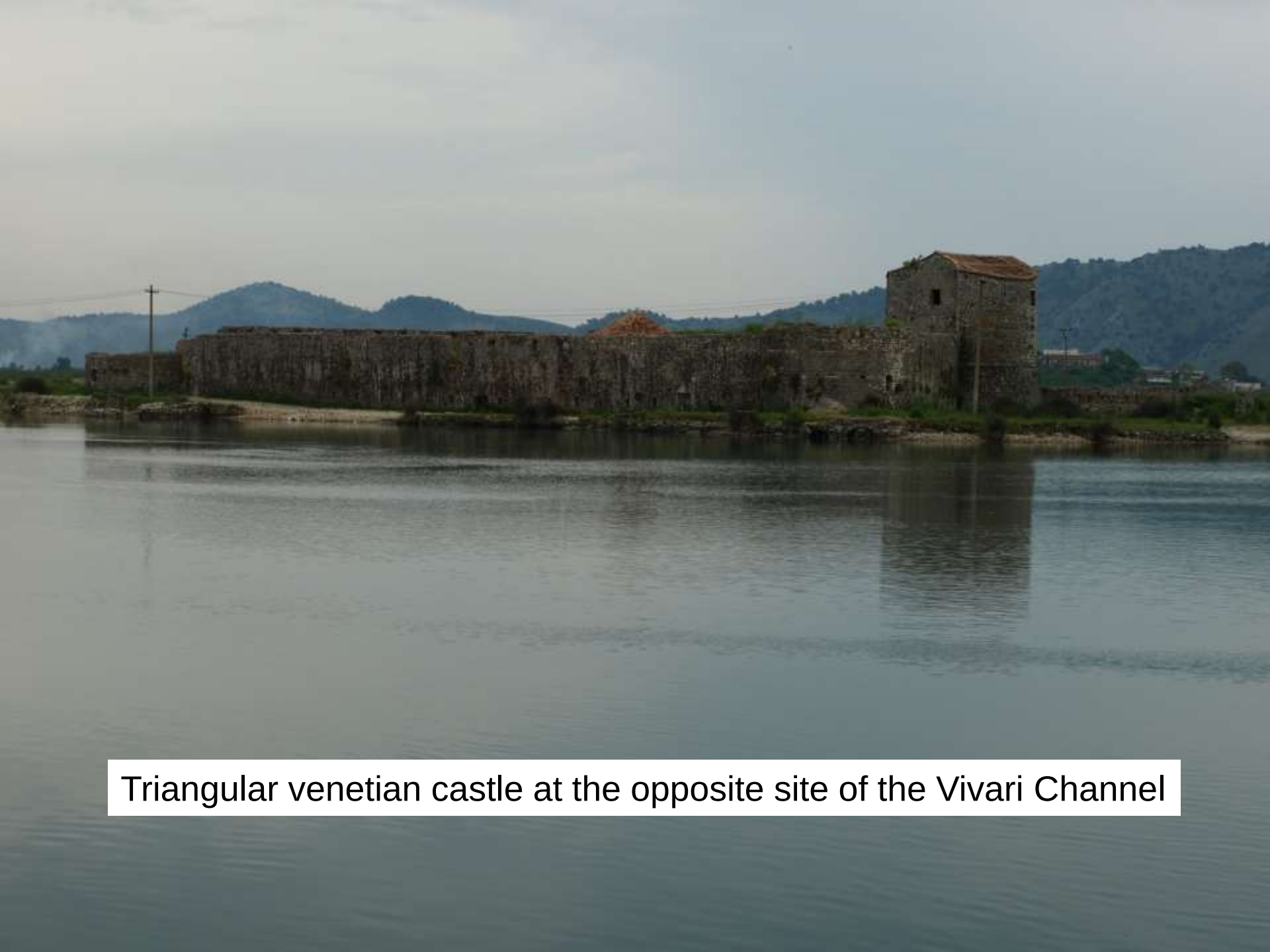
Galactites tomentosa

Crepis rubra





Nigella damascena



Triangular venetian castle at the opposite site of the Vivari Channel

Plantago coronopus





Crithmum maritimum growing near the coast in the influence of saline water spray

Literature and address of the author

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http://www.ruderal-vegetation.de/verschiedene_regionen