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## ***Pontechium maculatum* (L.) Böhle & Hilger (*Echium russicum* J.F. Gmel.) (*Boragonaceae*) on the Zemenska Mountain, Western Bulgaria**

*Pontechium maculatum* has a high conservation value: Red list of Bulgarian vascular plants (Vulnerable), Annex IV of the Directive 92/43 / EEC and Biological Diversity Act (2002) (Annex 2,3).

Field surveys were carried out in the period 2006-2020. The transect method was used.

As a result of field research and a study of the other habitats of the species in Bulgaria, it was found that the population of *Pontechium maculatum* on the Zemenska Mountain is the largest in Bulgaria.

The direct census identified about 4,000 generative individuals and 500 vegetative individuals on an area of 45 ha, in several fragments of a branch population that spans the northern part of the mountain. Two major fragments were identified - in the area of Peak Silni vrah (Fragment 1) and in the area of the Peak Glamen (Fragment 2)

Fragment 1: 42°28'13"N 22°41'30"E: 3000 generative individuals

Fragment 2: 42°29'12"N 22°41'03"E: 1000 generative individuals

There are also quite a few individuals found in the area close to Sv. Petar saddle and Peak Banderata.

The future prospects for its existence are positive, as at this stage there are no immediate threats.



Fragment of *Pontechium maculatum* population





Fragment of *Pontechium maculatum* population

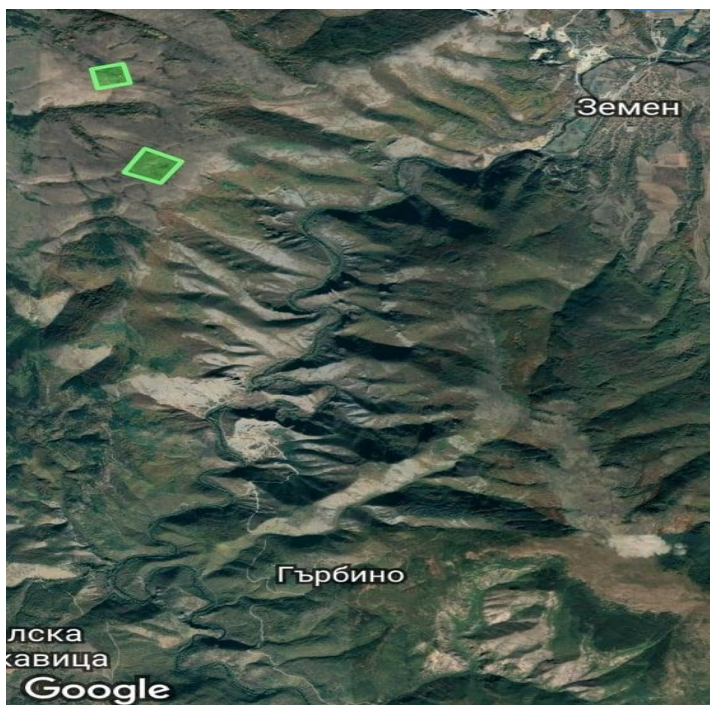


Fragment of *Pontechium maculatum* population





Population of *Pontechium maculatum* on Mt Zemenska



Population of *Pontechium maculatum* on Mt Zemenska