

**FLORA OF THE CHIVYRKUYSKIY BAY ISLANDS:  
MAIN FEATURES AND PATTERNS  
(ZABAICALSKIY NATIONAL PARK, RUSSIA)**

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The vegetation cover of seven islands in Chivyrkuyskiy Bay (Zabaikalskiy National Park, Northeastern Baikal region) was poorly studied. An understanding of the floristic diversity of the islands is important under conditions of climate change and anthropogenic impact.

The floristic diversity of the islands is relatively high due to a great variety of environmental conditions. 334 vascular plant species from 188 genera and 61 families have been registered among the island flora. Of these, 178 and 18 species were found for the first time for the islands and the Zabaikalskiy National Park respectively. A positive correlation between flora diversity and island size has been identified. It has also been determined that dense nesting colonies of gulls and cormorants have a significant influence on the vegetation of three islands (Bely Kamen, Pokoynitskiy Kamen, Goly), causing a lower plant species number. These patterns are similar to those in the flora of islands of the Maloe More Strait at the western coast of Lake Baikal.

In general, the structure of the island flora is typical for Zabaikalskiy National Park flora and generally reflects main features of Baikal Siberian flora. Holarctic and Eurasian species, as well as South Siberian and North Asian plants largely contribute to the flora composition. The island flora is classified in general as boreal semihumid. 13 species (3.5% of the total flora) endemic to the Baikal region are found on the islands. Lokhmatyy Island is the richest in endemics, being inhabited by 9 of them. Remarkably, most of the endemics are montane-steppe plants. Habitats and distribution on the islands were examined for the following rare and endangered species: *Deschampsia turczaninowii* Litv., *Corispermum ulopterum* Fenzl, *Cotoneaster tjuliniae* Pojark. ex Peschkova, *Rhodiola rosea* L., *Papaver popovii* Sipliv., and *Epipactis helleborine* (L.) Crantz. There are no invasive species in the flora, but fairly common ruderals were found and are especially abundant in the ornithogenic plant communities.

To summarize, the structure and composition of the island flora demonstrate its commonality with the floras of both Barguzinskiy Ridge and the Svyatoy Nos Peninsula which surround Chivyrkuyskiy Bay.

**Keywords:** vascular plants, floristic patterns, endemics, species richness, Lake Baikal, island biogeography, rare species, phytodiversity, national park

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