

# 5.

# HABERLANDT STATION

## UNDERGROWTH OF WITTMANN PARK



The vegetation and undergrowth of the park is botanically very diverse. The species composition of its vegetation is very similar to the oak-ash-elm woodland of the Szigetköz. Presumably it has developed from this association in such a way that, in addition to the planting of various tree and shrub species, its herbaceous undergrowth has retained its natural character.

The undergrowth and the presence of deadwood are determinant factors of forest biodiversity. In forest management, shrubs and deadwood are mostly removed, although leaving them increases the diversity of flora and fauna and serves as a refuge and habitat for many species.

## THE HABERLANDT FAMILY

**Frigyes Haberlandt** (Bratislava, 1826 - Vienna, 1878) was the first of a family of world-famous scientists to come to our city. In 1847, he became a student and later a professor at the Magyaróvár Higher Private School of Economics. During his years in Mosonmagyaróvár, he began to experiment with soybeans and silkworms, and today he is considered to be the one who introduced the plant to Europe. His sons were Gottlieb and Michael.



**Gottlieb Haberlandt** (Magyaróvár, 1854 - Berlin, 1945) began his studies at the local Piarist High School and continued at the University of Vienna. His name is associated with physiological plant anatomy. He became world famous for growing plant cells under laboratory conditions. He also laid the foundations for plant hormone research.



**Ludwig Haberlandt** (Graz, 1885 - Innsbruck, 1932) was a professor of physiology at the University of Innsbruck, who transferred the research results of his father (H. Gottlieb) to the humanities. He discovered the hormone that regulates cardiac movement, but it was his research into the physiology of reproduction that made him world-famous. He was a pioneer in hormonal contraception.



**Michael Haberlandt** (Magyaróvár, 1860 – Vienna, 1940) also chose a career in science, but it was in a very different field, as an ethnographer, where he made an outstanding and long-lasting contribution to European science.



**Scilla** (*Scilla vindobonensis*)

It can be found in closed off, green forests. The stem and the pedicel are often red. It has shiny, amplexicaul leaves. The inflorescence has loose, many-flowered clusters and a dark violet-blue colour. Its ripe fruit is light brown with yellow seeds.



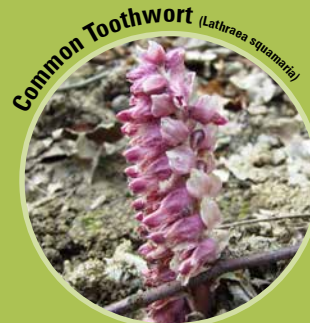
**Arum Orientale** (*Arum orientale*)

Perennial plant. It flowers in late spring. The leaves are long-stalked, broad, and spear-shaped. The inflorescence is a spadix, with pistil flowers at the bottom and stamens at the top. The inflorescence is subtended by a pale green or purple spathe. Its fruit is a highly poisonous red berry.



**Yellow Anemone** (*Anemone ranunculoides*)

It occurs in the undergrowth of deciduous forests. The leaves are strongly dissected, dark green in colour. It has golden yellow flowers, similar to those of buttercups. Under favourable conditions, it spreads rapidly through its underground tendrils. It contains toxic substances.



**Common Toothwort** (*Lathraea squamaria*)

A plant that thrives in gorge forests and groves. A pale red, rarely whitish perennial, devoid of chlorophyll. The rhizome is covered with thick scales. Only leaf-like scales can be found on the cylindrical stem. It feeds on the roots of deciduous trees.



**Solomon's Seal** (*Polygonatum multiflorum*)

It is a perennial plant found in shadowy, deciduous, and mixed woodlands with dense undergrowth. It has a cylindrical stem, long leaves, white, odourless flowers. Its fruit is a bluish-black berry. Its seeds are spread by birds.



**Wild Garlic** (*Allium ursinum*)

In early spring it is a typical perennial plant of the forest. Its bulb produces two large, garlic-scented leaves. It has white, "star-like" flowers that form in clusters on an umbel. Besides its pleasant taste, it has a beneficial effect on blood circulation and digestion. The leaves can be picked in spring, before flowering. Use it fresh because its medicinal properties are weakened when conserved! The bulb can be used in the same way as garlic.



**Small Balsam** (*Impatiens parviflora*)

It is found in moist, humid forests. Herbaceous annual plant. The leaves spread out from the stem, shading the ground. Its inflorescence is a loose cluster at the end of the shoot and has a pale yellow or sometimes white colour. It has a linear capsule, which, when ripe, suddenly coils up at the stalk, bursts, and catapults the seeds to a distance of 3-4 metres. Invasive species.



**Greater Celandine** (*Chelidonium majus*)

A perennial weed that can be found everywhere but is also an herb. Characterized by releasing orange-coloured fluid when any part of it is damaged, it is one of the best instant remedies for warts, corns, psoriasis. Nitrogen indicator plant.

## ORCHIDS IN SZIGETKÖZ?

There are about 20 species of orchid in Szigetköz and the Northern part of Hanság. They have a specific way of reproduction and life, living on fungi that live in symbiosis with them at the beginning of their lives. The largest of these is the Lady Orchid (*Orchis purpurea*). If you pay close attention, you can see some Narrow-leaved Helleborine (*Cephalanthera longifolia*), Military Orchid (*Orchis militaris*), and Eggleaf Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*). **Not only the plants are protected, but also their habitats!**

*EcoTip*

## PRESERVE WILD GARLIC BY DRYING!

Cut the stem of the wild garlic! Wash it, hang it to dry! Dry thoroughly in air. It must be free of all moisture otherwise it will become mouldy. You can also dry it in the oven at a very low temperature (35 °C). Crumble the dry leaves and put them into a jar! You can use it to flavour pâtés, sandwich creams, and you can also put it in soups and breads.



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