

DRAWING AT MONTSENY NATURAL PARK (SPAIN)

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Winter view of north side of the Agudes (Montseny N.P.). We can see at the bottom the beech forest while the silver firs (*Abies alba*) remain near the summit as a testimony to a time when the climate of Montseny was colder.

Nowadays scientific illustrators do not have many opportunities to leave their studios and to draw on field since the current way of working rarely allows them to do it. In order to recover, a little bit, the lost essence of scientific illustration a team of artists proposed to prepare some illustrations based on a direct relation between illustrators and nature and to organise an exhibition with a selection of the works. The Museum of Granollers, which has always been engaged on spreading scientific illustration, carried out the project and the Montseny Natural Park was chosen for it.

The Montseny is a mountainous massif located in the pre-littoral of Catalonia (Spain). The heights of their summits (higher than 1700 m) allow the development of different assemblages in a small area. These mountains are the southern boundary for some boreal species and moreover, few endemisms have been found in them.

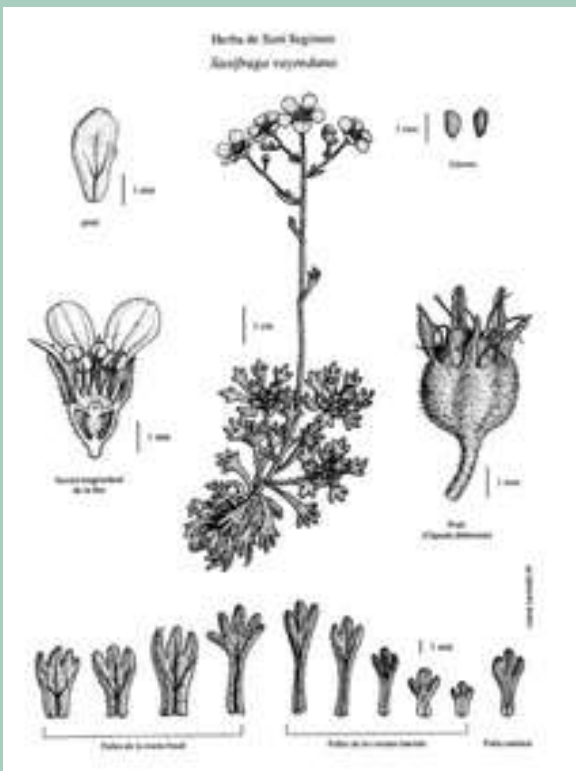
On the other hand, the Montseny is near a big metropolis (with more than 3,000,000 of inhabitants) and has been used for a long time as a recreational area. In 1977, the local administration declared it "Natural Park" and their values were also recognised internationally in 1978, when it was declared "Reserve of the Biosphere" by UNESCO.

For more than two years, 16 illustrators have visited the Park and have worked on the field sketching, photographing and collecting materials in order to elaborate an original work that shows a special view of the Natural Park. Within the works presented, sixty illustrations were selected and exhibited in the Museum of Granollers.

The exhibition and its catalogue have been dedicated to the great illustrator Eugeni Sierra i Rafols, passed away recently (1999), in gratitude for their high value as illustrator and scientist as well as a man. That's why some of his artwork has been included in the exhibition.



Front cover of the catalogue *Dibuixants al Montseny. La il·lustració científica al Parc Natural*, J. Corbera and C. Puche (eds.), Museu de Granollers, Granollers (2000). 126 pp. ISBN: 84-87790-42-9. (Text in Catalan, Spanish and English)



St. Segimon's saxifrage (*Saxifraga vayredana*)
Mercè Cartaña, 1999
Ink and pen on polyester,
30 x 21 cm



The authors working at field near Sta Fè del Montseny



Dormouse (*Glis glis*)
Carles Puche, 1999
Watercolour and pencil,
38 x 36 cm



"The leisurely ram", Eduardo Saiz, 1999
Watercolour, 37 x 17 cm



Carabus rutilans, Amadeu Blasco, 1999
Watercolour and gouache, 38 x 36 cm



Grass frog (*Rana temporaria*)
Jordi Corbera, 1999
Gouache, 42 x 30 cm

Ganoderma lucida, Àngels Jutglar, 1999
Watercolour, 30 x 16 cm

Lonicera etrusca and *Lotus* sp., Armand Muntés, 1999
Watercolour, 42 x 30 cm



List of participants

Amadeu Blasco
Mercè Cartaña i Arcediano
Joaquim Conca i Grau
Jordi Corbera
Anna Maria Ferrer
Àngels Jutglar Jutglar
Francesc Jutglar Jutglar
Carme Lorente Duserm
Lluís Montañá Alsina
Marta Montañá Ros
Armand Muntés i March
Agnès Perelló
Carles Puche
Eduardo Saiz Alonso
Assumpta Savall Domingo
Eugeni Sierra i Rafols
Joan Subirana Queralt

Natrix natrix
Anna Maria Ferrer, 1999
Colour pencils, 32 x 25 cm

