

Romania is situated at the junction of three big geographical regions: central European, east-European and south-European, and it has almost all of the landforms, numerous climate influences and a variety of soil. Romania is a country with a rich and diverse flora and fauna.

**Water lily (*Nymphaea lotus thermalis*)**- endemic species, it can be found only on the Petea stream, near the thermal water „1 Mai,, Oradea. They prefer still water with a minimum temperature of 20 degrees Celsius and a maximum temperature of 40 degrees Celsius. It is an everblooming plant with big denticulated leaves on the edges and folded at the upper sides. The flower is white-yellow but it can only be seen at night or early morning. A flower lives between 4 and 7 days. They have been in our country for over 300000 years and it is considered a nature monument.





**Edelweiss or the flower of the queen (Leontopodium alpinum)**– is a very rare flower in Romania. It only grows in the alpine regions, on the calcarous mountains and rarely in the subalpine regions. It can be found on Maramures Mountains, Rodna Mountains, Bucegi, Fagaras, Cozia and Retezat. It has a short stalk that ends with a star-shaped white flower. The whole plant is covered in smooth, silver hairs.





**Garofita Pietrei Craiului (*Dianthus callizonus*)**– it is a unique flower in the world because it can be found only on Piatra Craiului Mountain, being at first a curiosity for the biologists. A resembling flower can be found in China, a relic of a primitive stem. Every stalk has one carmin red flower with darker lines. In the middle of the flower it is a scarlet circle, the back of the petals is white-greenish. It blooms in the summer, in July and August.



**The Romanian Peony** –is a unique flower species in Europe that can only be found in Romania. In our country it exists in five natural reservations in Teleorman, Mures, Olt, Dolj, Giurgiu. This rare flower has a fascinated history which dates back in the ice age. The specialists name it a relic flower of that period and consider it a survivor considering it lasted until nowadays.



**Chamois (Rupicapra)**– is an animal from Bovidae family, Caprinae subfamily. Its height is of 110-130cm, it has a short tail (maximum 7 cm), it weighs between 30 and 50 kg. It has a rather short body, muscular legs, a split hoof, a rather long neck, small head with two straightish horns which are hooked backwards near the tip. The chamois is light brown-reddish during the summer and dark brown, almost black



during the winter. Distinct characteristics are white contrasting marks on the sides of the head with pronounced black stripes below the eyes, a white rump and a black stripe along the back. It lives in the high rocky areas in the Carpathians.



Lynx also called the Carpathians panther is a protected species of the Romanian fauna since the 1930s. It is the strongest animal from the Felidae family that lives in our country. It is over 1m long, it is extremely agile and an excellent hunter. Being protected by law, their

number is restored in the Carpathians, there are here over 2000 lynxes, the largest population of lynxes in Europe.

