Nature Conservation Agency Republic of Latvia

LATVIANATURE

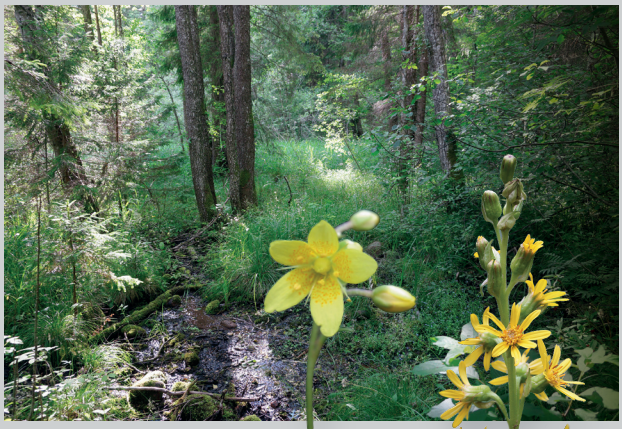
KRUSTKALNI Strict Nature Reserve

Krustkalni is one of the four strict nature reserves in Latvia

Krustkalni is home to **20** EU importance habitats:

- **3** freshwater
- **6** semi-natural grasslands
- **5** mires and springs
- **6** forest habitats

More than **1 564** invertebrate species are to be found in Krustkalni, including **1 210** species of butterflies



Marsh saxifrage
Saxifraga hirculus
Found in a transition mire

Siberian Ligularia
Ligularia Sibirica
One of only three known localities in Latvia is in Krustkalni

Purple-shot Copper *Lycaena alciphron*
Found in dry grasslands and forest edges. The caterpillar feeds on sorrel Rumex spp

Large copper
Lycaena dispar
The largest species of Lycaenidae family

Thesium ebrachteatum
The species' habitat is a semi-natural grassland

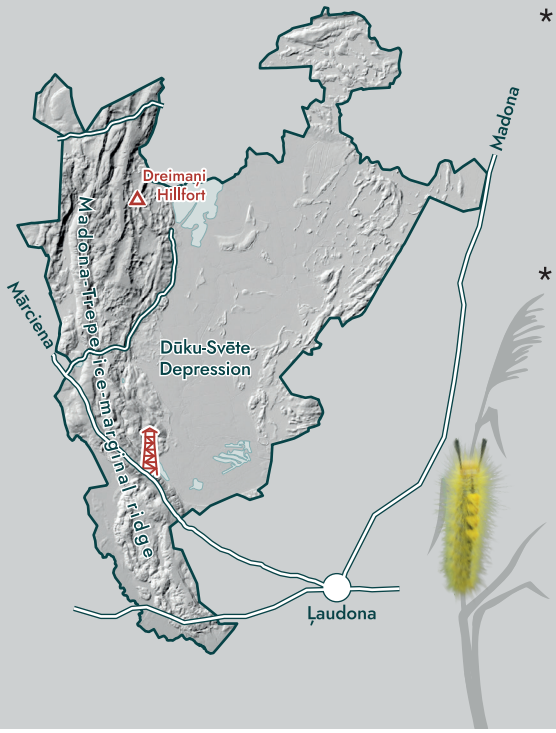
Hazel
Corylus avellana
Blooms ahead the leaves. Hazel has male and female flowers

Spreading Pasqueflower
Pulsatilla patens
Seeds spread up to 20 cm from the parent plant

More information:

Photo: Anita Namatēva, Guntis Akmentiņš

Foundation Year: **1977**
Area: **2978** ha
Natura 2000 area since **2004**
Located in Ļaudona and Mārciena parishes of Madona county



* In 2019, 24 previously unknown hillforts were discovered in Latvia, including Dreimaņi Hillfort, located in the Krustkalni Strict Nature Reserve.

* Targeted entomological and other invertebrate studies have been conducted in the reserve since 1978.
In 2007, a new butterfly species for Latvia, the Reed Tussock (*Laelia coenosa*), was discovered in Krustkalni. Caterpillars feed on reeds, sedges, and other plants growing near water.

KRUSTKALNI
strict nature reserve

Nature Conservation Agency
www.daba.gov.lv

2024

Rāzna National Park
Nature Center

ENVIRONMENTAL CHARACTERISTICS

Krustkalni Strict Nature Reserve is located in the northwestern edge of the East-Latvian Lowland, Arona hill-plain. Its terrain is characterized by various geomorphological structures:

Madona-Trepe ice-marginal ridge, consisting of several parallel ridges ranging from 2 to 50 m in height, characterized by steep slopes and glaciokarst depressions. Between the ridges, there are deep depressions with small mires or lakes. At the base of ridge, several springs emerge, the largest of which, Krāķu Spring, flows into Dreimaņu (Svētes) Lake. Nirīte River forms from several springs at the western foot of the ridge.

Dūku-Svēte Depression separates Madona-Trepe ice-marginal ridge from Praulena hillock. The depression is filled with freshwater limestone deposits, that are currently covered by the peat of transitional mires and alkaline fens. Several lakes are located here – Dreimaņu Lake, Lielais Plencis, and Mazais Plecis Lakes. Two rivers – Niedrušķa and Svēte – cross Dūku-Svēte Depression.

Praulena Hillock is characterized by slightly sloped ridges ranging from a few metres high to 15 m and 200-600m in width. Each ridge is separated by damp mire lowlands.

Such diverse environmental conditions create habitats for not only typical, but also rare, and protected species.

Hazel *Corylus avellana* – a characteristic shrub species found in the forests of Krustkalni Strict Nature Reserve

LOGO