

A contribution to the flora of Central Rhodopes

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Abstract. New chorological data are reported on 11 species. Of these, new taxa for the Rhodopes are *Euphorbia velenovskyi* and *Nepeta nuda* subsp. *albiflora*. Four species are new for the subregion of Rhodopi Mts (Central): *Carex panicea*, *Eleocharis uniglumis*, *Melica transsilvanica* and *Scabiosa micrantha*. The distribution in the Rhodopi Mts (Central) of five relatively common species in the country is confirmed, but unmentioned for the region in the contemporary general sources on the Bulgarian flora.

Key words: chorology, flora, Rhodopi Mts

Introduction

The Central Rhodopes are the subregion with the most abundant flora in the floristically richest region of Bulgaria: the Rhodopes (Assyov & al. 2002). Along with this, detailed floristic studies of the region in general or of some of its parts are lacking. The study reports some new species for the Central Rhodopes and confirms the distribution of others. Most data have been collected in the Dobrostan divide in the period 2003–2004.

The names of the taxa mainly follow Kozhuharov (1992a). The UTM coordinates of the locations are given. The Herbarium vouchers have been deposited at the Herbarium of the Institute of Botany (SOM).

Results and discussion

Avenulla compressa (Heuff.) Sauer & Chmelit.

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in a meadow close to Martsiganitsa chalet in the Dobrostan divide, 1400 m 19.06.2003, with flowers, LG 24, SC, SOM 158557.

According to Stojanov & al. (1966), this species occurs almost throughout the country. In the contemporary literary sources its distribution is referred to some specific floristic regions, and is mentioned only for the western part of Rhodopes (Kozhuharov 1992b; Delipavlov 2003), although in the earlier literary data it is reported as occurring in dry places on the northern slopes of the Central Rhodopes: Asenovgrad, Markovo, Hvoina (Urumov 1913).

Carex panicea L.

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in an inundated meadow above Gornoslav village, Asenovgrad district, 19.06.2003, LG 34, SC, SOM 158552.

A new species for the Central Rhodopes.

Eleocharis uniglumis (Link) Schult.

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in an inundated meadow above Gornoslav village, Asenovgrad district, 19.06.2003, LG 34, SC, SOM 158523.

A new species for the Central Rhodopes.

***Euphorbia velenovskyi* Bornm.**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): Dobrostan divide, in a wet meadow near the water fountain on the trail from Martsiganitsa chalet to peak Chervenata Stena, at about 1350 m, 21.06.2003, LG 24, SC, SOM 159643.

A new species for the Central Rhodopes. Stojanov & al. (1966) reported the species as occurring in the lowlands across the country. Kuzmanov (1979) specified the distribution of the species by floristic regions, but did not refer it to the Rhodopes and gave its vertical distribution up to 1000. The newly found location extends the vertical range of distribution of the species in the country.

***Lunaria rediviva* L.**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): Dobrostan divide, in shady places in a beech forest in the gully below peak Chervenata Stena, 1200–1350 m 25.05.1991, LG 24; in the forest above Bachkovo Monastery, 07.1966, coll. & det. Zh. Cherneva, LG 24, SV, SOM 134771.

Stojanov & al. (1966) reported the species for all high mountains in Bulgaria, including the Rhodopes. In the later general sources on the flora of Bulgaria (Anchev 1992; Assyov & al. 2002; Popova 2003) the species was not referred to the Rhodopi Mts (*Central*).

***Melica transsilvanica* Schur**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in calcareous rocks above Markovo village, along the road to Byala Cherkva, 20.06.2003, LG 05, SC, SOM 160578.

A new species for the Central Rhodopes.

***Muscari comosum* (L.) Mill.**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in a meadow near Martsiganitsa chalet in the Dobrostan divide, 1400 m, 19.06.2003, with flowers, LG 24, SC, SOM 158546.

In some contemporary general sources on the flora of Bulgaria (Kozuharov 1992a; Assyov & al. 2002) *M. comosum* is reported only for some of the floristic regions of the country. In fact this is a widely distributed species occurring probably across the country, as reported by Popova (2003). This communication confirms the distribution of the species in the Central Rhodopes with a concrete location.

***Nepeta nuda* L. subsp. *albiflora* (Boiss.) Gams**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in a stone-strewn pasture above Dobrostan village, Asenovgrad district, 20.06.2003, LG 24, SC, SOM 158560.

A new subspecies for the Rhodopes. Known in Bulgaria from the Balkan Range (*Eastern*) (Assenov 1989) and Mt Belasitsa (Dimitrov & Pavlova 2000). The population observed comprised about 20 individuals. The typical subspecies occurs in the region on a mass scale.

***Ornithogallum montanum* Cyr.**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): Dobrostan divide, in the stone-strewn meadows above Cherdaka locality, close to Martsiganitsa chalet, 1400 m, LG 24, SC, SOM 160579.

The occurrence of the species in the Central Rhodopes is confirmed, which, according to Urumov (1913), was also found in the vicinities of Byala Cherkva and Hvoina village.

***Scabiosa micrantha* Desf.**

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): in a pasture near Oreshets village, Dobrostan divide, 20.06.2003, with flowers, LG 24, SC, SOM 158522.

Known from several floristic regions of the country, this species in the contemporary sources is reported only for the western part of the Rhodopes (Petrova 1992; Cheshmedzhiev 2003). Central Rhodopes are mentioned in some earlier data from the region of Yugovo and Kouklen villages (Urumov 1913).

Thalictrum aquilegiifolium* L. subsp. *aquilegiifolium

Rhodopi Mts (*Central*): Dobrostan divide, in mesophilous glades along the trail from Martsiganitsa chalet to Bezovo chalet, in the region where starts Kourudere, 1250–1300 m, 07.06.2004, LG 24, SOM 160577. The species was repeatedly observed in that location in the period 1992–2004, usually at the end of May, with flowers. It was also observed in the region of Byala Cherkva resort, along the forest trail to Kosovo village.

This species is widely distributed in the Bulgarian mountains (Stojanov & al. 1966), although in the contemporary sources (Anchev 1992; Assyov & al. 2002; Popova 2003) it was not reported for the Central Rhodopes, irrespective of the fact that Urumov (1913) mentioned it as a fairly widely distributed plant in the vicinities of Chepelare, Hvoina and Pavelsko.

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