

The *Ranunculus auricomus* L. complex (Ranunculaceae) in Croatia – validation of *Ranunculus velebiticola*

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Abstract: *Ranunculus velebiticola* DUNKEL is provided as nomen novum to validly describe the species previously published under the illegitimate name *R. velebiticus* DUNKEL, non (DEGEN ex BECK) TRINAJSTIĆ

Zusammenfassung: *Ranunculus velebiticola* DUNKEL wird als nomen novum vergeben, um die Art gültig zu beschreiben, die zuvor unter dem illegitimen Namen *Ranunculus velebiticus* DUNKEL, non (DEGEN ex BECK) TRINAJSTIĆ veröffentlicht wurde.

Keywords: *Ranunculus auricomus*, Croatia, new species, taxonomy

Ranunculus velebiticola DUNKEL, **nom. nov.** (Fig. 1)

≡ *R. velebiticus* DUNKEL, Stapfia 118: 51 (2024), nom. illeg., non (DEGEN ex BECK) TRINAJSTIĆ, Suppl. Fl. Anal. Jugosl. 1: 8, 1973.

Holotype: Croatia, Velebit, Lika-Senj County, 11255.2, Krasno Polje, Jezera, 2,8 km sw Krasno, 1,6 km no Mali Rajinac, W-Hang des Pljišivica, subalpine Wiesen [subalpine meadows], 1480 m, 44°48'14" N 15°01'32", 07 Jun 2020, F.G. Dunkel-37863, ZA; isotypes: GOET, M, Du-37863.

Note: The combination made by TRINAJSTIĆ (1973) has been overlooked by DUNKEL (2024) necessitating a new name to validate description of his new species (TURLAND et al. 2018). In the genus *Ranunculus* the epithet „*velebiticus*“ has been introduced by Árpád von Degen on the labels of distributed exsiccatae and was published without description as a variety of „*Ranunculus tenuifolius* DC.“ by Rossi in a short article dealing with floristic notes of Southeastern Croatia [Floristička istraživanja po jugoistočnoj Hrvatskoj] (ROSSI 1914: 28). Towards the end of the same year Beck validly described it as a form of variety „*tenuifolius* DC.“ under *R. montanus* WILLD. (BECK 1914: 462) and finally it was raised to specific rank (TRINAJSTIĆ 1973: 8). The full synonymy is provided below. Although the identity of this taxon is not fully clarified yet, it is certainly different from all members of the *R. auricomus* L. complex. Although also occurring in Croatia it is regarded as a deviant form of *R. carinthiacus* HOPPE in the *R. montanus* group with similarities to the Albanian endemic *R. hayekii* DÖRFL. and most likely should not be accepted at specific rank.

R. velebiticus (DEGEN ex BECK) TRINAJSTIĆ, Suppl. Fl. Anal. Jugosl. 1: 8, 1973

≡ *R. montanus* f. *velebiticus* DEGEN ex BECK, Glasn. Zemaljsk. Muz. Bosni i Hercegovini 26: 462, 1914.

≡ *R. montanus* var. *velebiticus* (DEGEN ex BECK) HAYEK, Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg. Beih. 30: 340, 1927.

≡ *R. carinthiacus* var. *velebiticus* (DEGEN ex BECK) DEGEN, Fl. Velebitica 2: 144, 1937.

≡ *R. tenuifolius* var. *velebiticus* DEGEN in ROSSI, Glasn. Hrvatsk. Priir. Društva 26(4): 228, 1914, nom. nud.

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Fig. 1 - *Ranunculus velebiticola* at its type locality, Krasno Polje, Velebit, Croatia.