

***Myosotis margaritae* - a new species for Greece, Romania and Serbia**

Myosotis margaritae - nový druh pro Řecko, Rumunsko a Srbsko

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Štěpánková J. (1994): *Myosotis margaritae* - a new species for Greece, Romania and Serbia.
- Preslia, Praha, 66:261-264.

K e y w o r d s: *Myosotis margaritae*, distribution, Greece, Romania, Serbia.

Myosotis margaritae Štěpánková is reported for the first time from Greece, Romania and Serbia.
Its morphological characters and total distribution are given.

Introduction

In 1993, *Myosotis margaritae* Štěpánková, the species related to the *M. caespitosa* group, was described from mountain regions of Bulgaria (Štěpánková 1993). However, its total distribution area has been quite insufficiently known.

M. margaritae belongs to the group of taxa of the series *Palustres* M. Popov, characterized by the following morphological features: monocarpical plants, inflorescence bracteate, calyx divided to 1/2. In addition, this group designated as the subseries *Caespitosae* by Schuster (1967) involves the following species - *M. baltica* Sam., *M. caespitosa* C. F. Schultz, *M. debilis* Pomel, *M. diminuta* Grau, *M. laxa* Lehm., *M. lusitanica* Schuster and *M. sicula* Guss. Except of *M. laxa* and *M. caespitosa*, i. e. the species with very large areas comprising whole Eurasia (*M. caespitosa*) and also North America (*M. laxa*), they are restricted to relatively small areas or even represent endemics of particular regions (*M. baltica* - Baltic Archipelag, Apelgren 1990; *M. sicula* - Mediterranean region, Schuster 1967; *M. debilis* - Portugal, North Africa, Grau 1967; *M. lusitanica* - Iberian peninsula, Grau 1967; *M. diminuta* - Turkey, Grau 1978; *Myosotis margaritae* - given only from Bulgaria so far, Štěpánková 1993).

Results

During the revision of herbarium material (BP, WU) of the taxa included in *Myosotis palustris* group, plants collected in Greece, Romania and Serbia, identified by the present

author as *M. margaritae*, were found. Their morphological features were in good agreement with those characterizing *M. margaritae*: stems erect, branched in lower 1/3, not rooting, without stolons, sparsely appressed hairy, faintly ribbed; lower leaves oblong-spathulate, obtuse, 4-7.5 cm long, 0.7-2.1 cm wide, upper leaves oblong, subacute to obtuse at the apex, sessile, 2-7 cm long, 0.5-1.2 cm wide, with appressed hairs upward by pointing on the both sides; inflorescence branched at the base, usually with bracts, lower pedicels up to 9 mm long, two times longer than the calyx, erecto-patent to spreading, upper pedicels as long as calyx, patent; calyx oblong-campanulate, 3.6-5.0 mm long, 1.7-2.3 mm wide in fruit, divided into narrowly triangular teeth, acute to acuminate at the apex, 1.4-2.4 mm long, 0.7-1.6 mm wide, about half the length of calyx, main veins branched at base of the calyx tube, conspicuously protruding; corolla sky blue, 6 mm in diam., corolla lobes almost entire, flat; fruit oblong-ovate, truncate at base, obtuse at apex, 1.4-1.7 mm long, 0.8-1.1 mm wide; pollen grains 5.8-6.2 μm long; $2n=20$ (Štěpánková 1993).

Myosotis margaritae is morphologically very similar to *M. sicula* Guss. and *M. caespitosa* C. F. Schultz. For this reason, it is very often confused with them in herbaria. Diagnostic features of these three morphologically closely related species are compared in Štěpánková (1993).

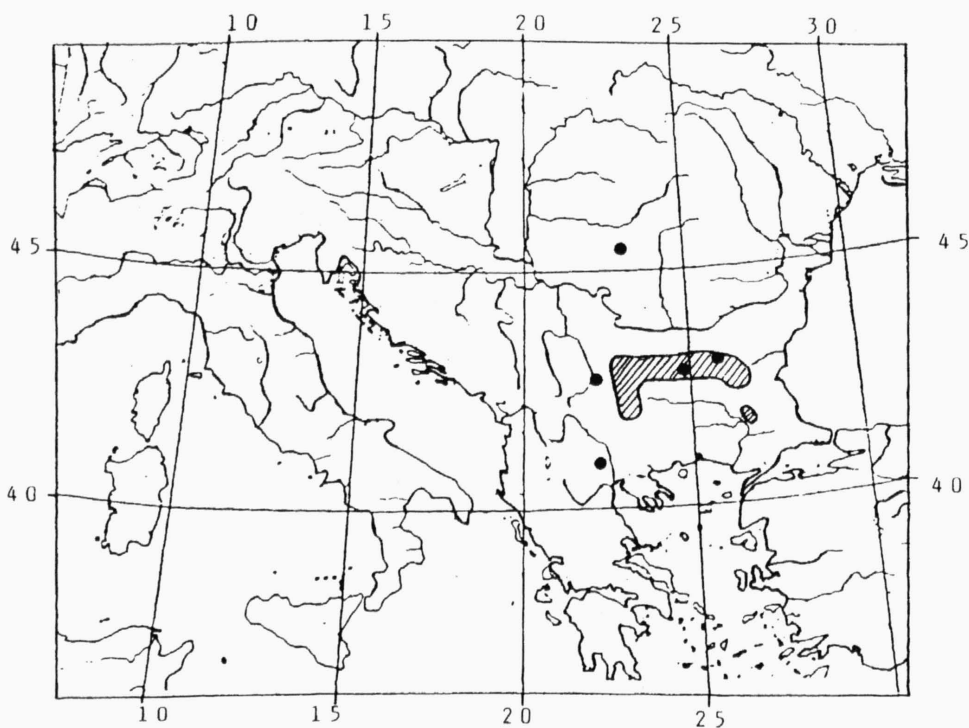


Fig. 1. - Distribution of *Myosotis margaritae* Štěpánková.

The specimens discovered in herbaria BP and WU present the first records of *M. margaritae* in Greece, Romania and Serbia (Fig. 1). In addition to the previously published localities of *M. margaritae* (Štěpánková 1993), further data on its occurrence in Bulgaria, excerpted from herbaria BP and PR, are also given. The two localities, presented here as new for Bulgaria, have previously been published in literature; the locality "Hisar" is mentioned in the Urumov's work (Urumov 1929:82) in the paragraph dealing with *M. sicula* Guss., and the locality "Trnovo" probably refers to the record "Bulgaria s.l." stated in Schuster (1967:88) for *M. sicula* var. *virgata* Schuster.

A study of plentiful herbarium material (BP, G, PR, PRC, JE, SO, SOA, SOM, WU) reveals, that *M. margaritae* is an outstanding endemic of mountain regions of the Balkan peninsula.

Previously published localities

(The detailed list is given in Štěpánková 1993)

Bulgaria:

The Stara planina Mts., the Znepolski region, the Vitoša Mts., the Lozenska planina Mts., the Rila Mts., the Sredna Gora Mts., the Tundža Hills.

New localities

Bulgaria:

Hisar, leg. Urumov (BP); Trnovo, 1901, leg. Stříbrný (sub *M. sicula*, PR).

Greece:

Edessa (Vodena), montes Kaimakčalan, 1500 m s. m., 28. 7. - 3. 8.?, leg. K. H. Rechinger fil. (sub *M. lingulata*, no. 3184, BP).

Romania:

In pratis ad opp. Petrozsény (Petroseni), cottus Hunyad (Hunedoara), 10. 7. 1884, leg. L. Simonkai (sub *M. scabra* Simk., BP).

Serbia:

Vlasotince, 1890, leg. Dörfler (sub *M. scorpioides* var. *strigulosa*, WU, no. 94-36/11)

Acknowledgement

I am grateful to the staffs of the herbaria BP, G, JE, PR, PRC, SO, SOA, SOM and WU for enabling me to study their herbarium material.

Souhrn

V práci jsou uveřejněny první údaje o výskytu druhu *M. margaritae* Štěpánková v Rumunsku, Řecku a Srbsku. Zároveň jsou publikovány další lokality tohoto druhu z Bulharska.

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Received 9 April 1994

Accepted 18 April 1994