

VERONICA PEREGRINA L.
AND *VERONICA SCARDICA* GRISEB.
(*SCROPHULARIACEAE*), NEW SPECIES
IN CROATIAN FLORA

JASENKA TOPIĆ & LJUDEVIT ILIJANIĆ

Botanical Institute, Dept. Biol., Faculty of Sciences, University of Zagreb,
Marulićev trg 20/II, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia (e-mail: jtopic@yahoo.com)

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Veronica peregrina L. originates from America and has been spreading in Europe since 18th century. We found it in August, 2003, on the bank of a Danube oxbow (Dunavac) in Batina, where it grows in the amphibian community of the alliance *Nanocyperion*.

Veronica scardica Griseb. is a native European species distributed in Eastern and South Eastern Europe. We found it on wet fine gravel on the bank of the Kupa River at Ozalj, downstream from the HE power station.

Specimens of both species have been deposited in the ZA Herbarium.

Keywords: *Veronica peregrina* L., *Veronica scardica* Griseb., Croatia

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Veronica peregrina L. potječe iz Amerike a po Europi se širi od 18. stoljeća. Našli smo je u kolovozu 2003., na sprudu Dunavca u Batini, unutar amfibijske zajednice iz sveze *Nanocyperion*.

Veronica scardica Griseb. autohtona je vrsta rasprostranjena uglavnom u istočnoj i jugoistočnoj Europi. Našli smo je na finom šljunku uz Kupu, neposredno ispod hidrocentrale u Ozlju.

Primjerci obiju vrsta pohranjeni su u ZA herbaru.

Ključne riječi: *Veronica peregrina* L., *Veronica scardica* Griseb., Hrvatska

Veronica peregrina L. (*Scrophulariaceae*) originates from Central and South America whence it was introduced into Europe as early as in 18 century. It is widely naturalized in Europe, mainly in the western and central parts. According to the Flora Europaea (WALTERS & WEBB, 1972) it is distributed in: Au Az Be Br Cz Ga Ge Hb



Fig. 1. *Veronica peregrina* L.

He Ho Hs Hu It Lu No Po Rm Rs(B) on waste places, appearing only casually in some of territories listed.

In meantime, *V. peregrina* was also noted for several localities in Slovenia (JOGAN, 2001) where it grows in gardens on wet soils (FISCHER, 1999), being noted there for the first time in 1992.

In the neighbouring area of Vojvodina (Serbia and Montenegro) the species was noted for Fruška gora, near the Croatian border (DIKLIĆ, 1974).

Nevertheless, *V. peregrina* has not so far been noted for Croatia (HRŠAK, 2000).

In August 2003 we found *V. peregrina* (Fig. 1) on Batina Island, NE Croatia, UTM CR38, MTB 0179 (Fig. 2), on the bank of a Danube oxbow (Dunavac) which is on upper side disconnected from the Danube main stream by a dam and a road, but connected on the lower part. In summer 2003 the water level of the Danube River was extraordinary low, which was reflected in the side channels. Consequently, the very shallow banks were out of the water, broadly edging the river bed (Fig. 3). Vegetation of the alliance of *Nanocyperion* was well developed and among the prevailing species of *Cyperus michelianus*, *Cyperus fuscus* and *Limosella aquatica*, one specimen of *Veronica peregrina* was found, now placed in the ZA Herbarium.

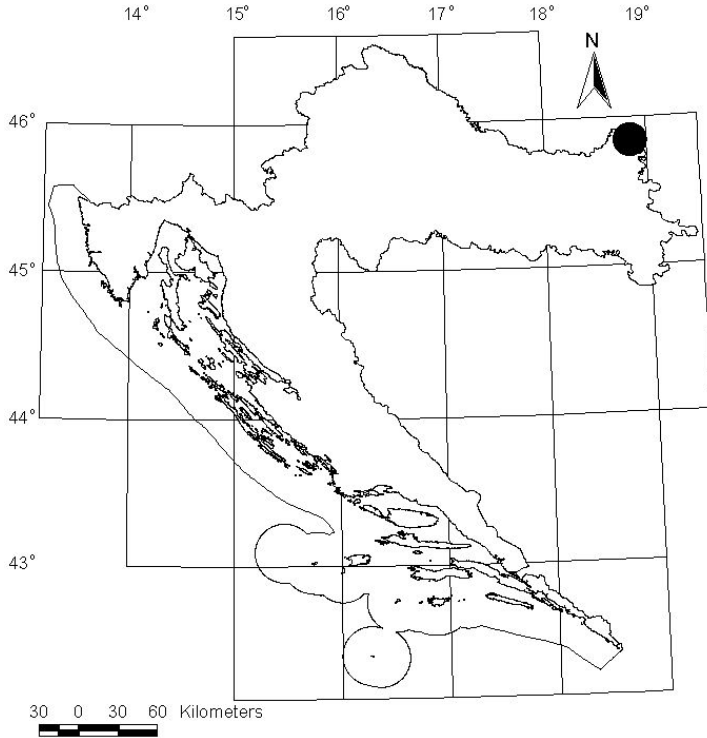


Fig. 2. Locality of *Veronica peregrina* in Croatia



Fig. 3. Habitat of *Veronica peregrina*



Fig. 4. *Veronica scardica* Griseb.

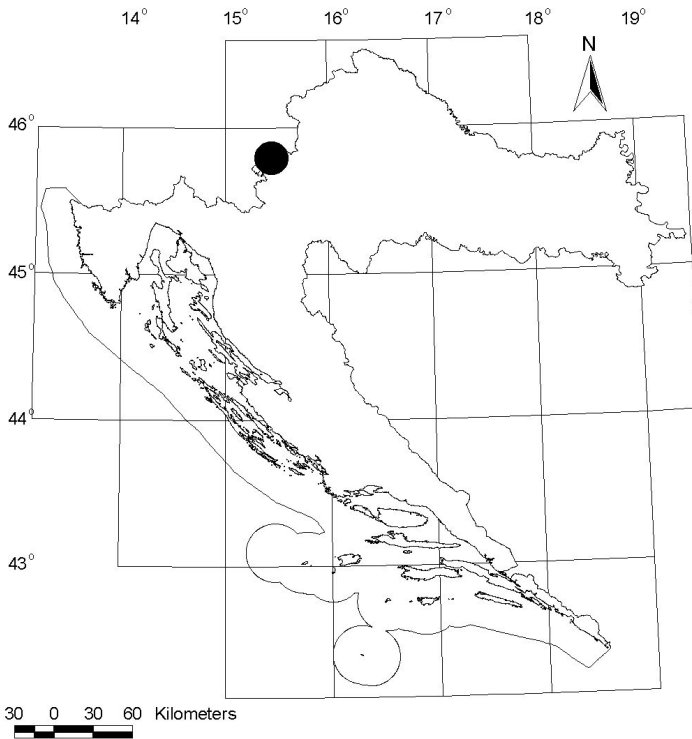


Fig. 5. Locality of *Veronica scardica*



Fig. 6. Habitat of *Veronica scardica*

V. peregrina grows in Europe in different habitats, as a weed and ruderal plant (LAUBER & WAGNER, 2000, PIGNATTI, 1982) mainly on wet, nutrient-rich soil (ADLER *et al.*, 1994), while SIMON (2000) attaches it to *Nanocyperion*. Since the same situation obtains in the Croatian locality, it seems quite natural that toward eastern Europe *Veronica peregrina* prefers that particularly wet habitat of amphibian communities. It can be expected to be found in more localities since this adventive species is still spreading through Europe.

Veronica scardica Griseb. (*V. gracilis* (Uechtr.) Velen.) (Fig. 4) is a native European species distributed in Eastern Central and South Eastern Europe: Al Au Bu Cz Gr Hu Ju Rm Rs (?C W?K) where it grows in wet places (WALTERS & WEBB, 1972).

It is distributed in south eastern Serbia, on a very restricted area, where it grows in wet habitats around springs and brooks, in forests and wet grasslands (DIKLIĆ, 1974). It also grows in Hungary (SIMON, 2000) in wet habitats. *V. scardica* is a very rare and endangered plant in Austria (ADLER *et al.*, 1994).

We found *Veronica scardica* on wet fine gravel (Fig. 6) on the shallow bank of the Kupa River at Ozalj (Fig. 5), downstream from the HE power station (UTM WL35, MTB 0358). There it grows with characteristic amphibian plants of the alliance *Nanocyperion*, such as *Cyperus fuscus* and *Cyperus flavescens*, accompanied by *Echinochloa crus-galli*, *Leersia oryzoides*, *Panicum capillare*, *P. dichotomiflorum*, *Bidens tripartita* and *Polygonum mite*. We succeeded in finding two specimens, one of which has been deposited in the ZA Herbarium.

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