

THE BLACKISH ANEMONE (*Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck) AT TWO NEW LOCALITIES IN CROATIA

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The endangered species *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck has been found at two new localities in Croatia, the first one on the eastern slopes of the Ravna gora mountain, Vukovoj, and the second one on rocky pasture-grounds in southern Istria near the Marčano village.

Key words: *Pulsatilla nigricans*, Croatia, new localities

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Ugrožena vrsta *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck pronađena je na dva dosad nepoznata lokaliteta u Hrvatskoj. Jedan je na istočnim obroncima Ravne gore, predio Vukovoj, a drugi na kamenjarskim pašnjacima južne Istre kod naselja Marčana.

Ključne riječi: *Pulsatilla nigricans*, Hrvatska, nova nalazišta

INTRODUCTION

The first records of *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck with respect to Croatia were made by SCHLOSSER-VUKOTINOVIĆ (1869). According to these authors, this species grows on sandy hillocks near Vinica in the vicinity of Varaždin and near Carević in the Srijem region. According to Dragutin HIRC (1903-1912), this species may also be found in the surroundings of Karlovac. Not all of these localities have been verified or confirmed. Investigation of the flora of the Podravina sands (SOKOLIĆ, 1943) has confirmed the presence of this species in the Imovinski pijesak area near Kloštar Podravski. Although (TRINAJSTIĆ, 1973) confirms the existence of this species only in Slovenia and considers its presence in Croatia as unverified and questionable, *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck was abundant on sands near the Drava river in the sixties and seventies, more precisely to the east of Kalinovac village and in a sandy habitat

with grass vegetation as *Coryneporeto-Festucetum vaginatae croaticum* Sokl. 1942 to the north of Kloštar Podravski (KRANJČEV 1984).

Due to the colour of its flowers, which used to be used for Easter egg colouring, *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck became an endangered species. Nowadays, it is even more so due to sand excavation and the disposal of waste in the area. Grassplots have been uprooted and the grasslands have become shrubby. The blackish anemone in the sands near Drava has been vanishing rather rapidly lately, as have other psamophilous species. The last specimen was noted at Dragance in 1994, in sands near Kloštar Podravski (KRANJČEV, 1994, 1995).

In the »Red book of plant species« of the Republic of Croatia (ŠUGAR, ed., 1994) this anemone is listed as an endangered species in Croatia. Attempts at experimental growing have been made in order to preserve the species (TRINAJSTIĆ, 1994).

New localities

On April 10 1996 during a tour made along the eastern spurs of the Ravna gora mountain (highest peak 680 m above sea level) in north-western Croatia, *Pulsatilla*



Fig. 1. The blackish anemone *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck from Vukovoj on the Ravna gora Mt. (Northern Croatia). Photo by R. Kranjčev.

nigricans Störck was found to be abundantly present. Most of the specimens in good condition (Fig. 1) grow on the southern facing part of the Vukovoj crest, to the north of the villages of Klenovnik and Pintarići and in the vicinity of the church of St. Vuk (475 m). The soil there is shallow, stony mainly on lime-stone. Plants grow sporadically or in groups on dry stony meadows, along the country roads and along the borders of ploughed fields, hedges, underwood and groves. A large number of dwarfish specimens grow on the trodden ground around the church. A few vital shrub-like specimens have chosen a centuries – old wide stone wall around the church (approximately 2 meters high) as their habitat.

The basic dark violet colour of the flowers varies slightly from specimen to specimen. My thanks are due to Mr. D. Šincek from Varaždin for his help in discovering this locality.

A visit to Istria on April 30, 1996, north of the village of Marčano (169 meters above sea level) resulted in the discovery of a few specimens of *Pulsatilla nigricans* that share the same morphological characteristics as those noted at Ravna gora. The soil is limestone, shallow, with a sparse grassy and shrubby vegetation. Specimens were found in the late blooming phase, most of them already in seed.

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SAŽETAK

Nova nalazišta crnkaste sase (*Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck) u Hrvatskoj

R. Kranjčev

Ugrožena vrsta *Pulsatilla nigricans* Störck pronađena je na dva dosad nepoznata lokaliteta u Hrvatskoj. Jedan je na istočnim obroncima Ravne gore, predio Vukovoj, a drugi na kamenjarskim pašnjacima južne Istre kod naselja Marčana. To je vrlo značajno jer su poznata staništa na kojima je ova biljka rasla osobito ugrožena u posljednje vrijeme zbog iskopavanja pijeska i zatrpavanja odlaganjem otpada. Nova nalazišta bi zato trebalo odmah zaštititi.