

Perilla frutescens (L.) Britton (Lamiaceae), a new alien species in the flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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Abstract

Perilla frutescens (Lamiaceae), a new alien species for the flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina was found, near Olov in Central Bosnia in August 2018. The species was growing along the banks of the Krivaja River and in ruderal plant community in the vicinity of the village Jelaške. Brief information on the species distribution and a short morphological description is given.

Keywords: alien plants, Bosnia and Herzegovina, distribution, *Perilla*

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Sažetak

Perilla frutescens (Lamiaceae), nova strana vrsta za floru Bosne i Hercegovine zabilježena je u blizini Olova u srednjoj Bosni u kolovozu 2018. Vrsta je nađena na obalama rijeke Krivaje, kao i u ruderalnim zajednicama u blizini sela Jelaške. U radu se donosi kratak opis morfoloških karakteristika vrste kao i karta distribucije u Bosni i Hercegovini.

Ključne riječi: Bosna i Hercegovina, *Perilla*, rasprostranjenost, strane vrste biljaka

Introduction

Perilla frutescens (L.) Britton (synonym: *Ocimum frutescens* L.), also known as Perilla mint (Fig. 1) is a robust annual herb that grows 0.3 to 2 m tall. The villose stems are purple or green with four parallel grooves. Leaves are broadly ovate or orbicular, opposite, 7-13 cm long and 4-10 cm wide, with mucronate tips, a

rounded or broad cuneate bases, and dentate margins. Inflorescence raceme-like, lax or congested, densely hairy, flower stalks to 1.5 mm, hairy, bracts acuminate. Calyx about 3 mm long and erect, in flower 4-11 mm and pendent in fruit, teeth of lower lip narrower and longer than the others. Corolla

tubular, 3-4 mm long, slightly hairy, white to purplish red. Nutlets 1-1.5 mm, grayish to brown (Britton & Brown 1913, Shu 1994, Whiteley 2000). Chromosome counts are $2n=20, 40$ (Harley et al. 2004).

P. frutescens is native to Eastern Asia. It is cultivated as an ornamental and for its aromatic oil in SE Europe, Asia, N America, and it can escape locally in these regions (Richardson 1972, Shu 1994). In the Flora of China (Shu 1994) *P. frutescens* is divided into three varieties: *P. frutescens* var. *frutescens*, var. *purpureascens* (Hayata) H.W. Li, and var. *crispa* (Benth) W. Deane ex C. Biley. The recorded plant belongs to var. *crispa*. The article deals with the first occurrence data in the wild of the species in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Material and methods

The field study was conducted in the summer of 2018. Digital photographs and geographic coordinates of the recorded populations were taken in the field. The identification of the specimens was done according to Shu (1994), Whiteley (2000) and the nomenclature follows Shu (1994). The taxon description follows Shu (1994), Whiteley (2000) and Harley et al. (2004) with some additional comments based on specimens collected by the authors. The distribution of the taxon in Bosnia and Herzegovina is shown on the map using standard UTM grid 10×10 km. The specimens were collected and stored in the Herbarium of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina (SARA, 51860, 51861).



Figure 1. *Perilla frutescens* (L.) Britton (Lamiaceae), a new alien species in the flora of Bosnia and Herzegovina (Photos: Š. Šarić, 2018).

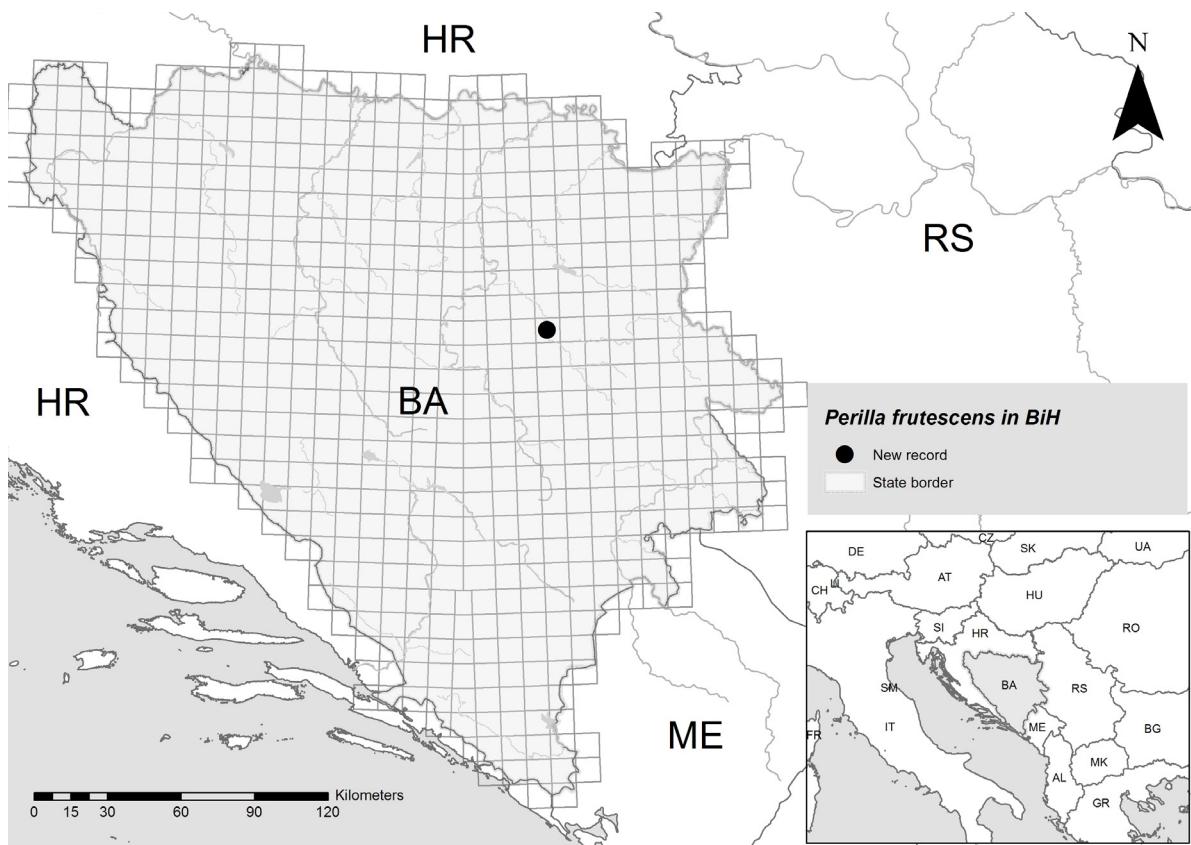


Figure 2. The distribution of *Perilla frutescens* in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Results and discussion

The first finding of *Perilla frutescens* for Bosnia and Herzegovina was recorded in Central Bosnia, near Jelaške village ($44^{\circ} 17' 03.86''$ N; $18^{\circ} 24' 37.57''$ E.) at the beginning of August 2018 (Fig. 2). Only a few plants were observed at a rubbish dump soil (Fig. 1a). The species has recently been registered along the banks of the Krivaja River in the vicinity of the village Jelaške near the Olovo town ($44^{\circ} 17' 30.87''$ N; $18^{\circ} 25' 30.15''$ E.) (Fig. 1b). It is yet unknown how this species was introduced into Bosnia and Herzegovina, most likely as a garden escapee.

According to Richardson et al. (2000), the observation period is too short to understand and declare a state of naturalized species. Therefore, this species can be considered an alien casual for now, waiting for further field investigations to achieve the proper status attribution.

P. frutescens has been reported in Europe as alien in Germany (Scheuermann 1956), Great Britain (Clement & Foster 1994), Belgium (Verloove & Vandenberghe 1998), Turkey (Donmez 2002), Romania (Oprea & Sîrbu 2006), Italy (Celesti-Grapow et al. 2009, Verloove & Ardenghi 2015), Spain (Gasso et al. 2010), European Russia (Morozova 2014), Hungary (Balogh et al. 2004), Montenegro (Stešević et al. 2014) and Czech Republic (Pergl et al. 2016). Recently it was found in Dalmatia (Croatia), on the island Murter (Pandža 2018).

It is reported to be an invasive plant in natural areas across the mid-Atlantic region of United States (Swearingen 2010).

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