

## *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer (*Geraniaceae*), A NEW SPECIES IN CROATIAN FLORA

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The species *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer was found in South Istria and on the island of Krk. This is the first finding of this plant species in Croatia and, according to the distribution of *E. acaule* in other Mediterranean countries, can be expected to be distributed more widely along the Croatian coast.

**Key words:** new species, *Erodium acaule*, Croatia

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Vrsta *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer nađena je u južnoj Istri i na otoku Krku. To je prvo nalazište te vrste u Hrvatskoj. Prema njenoj rasprostranjenosti u susjednim mediteranskim zemljama može se pretpostaviti da je rasprostranjena i drugdje u mediteranskom području Hrvatske.

**Ključne riječi:** nova vrsta, *Erodium acaule*, Hrvatska

According to WEBB & CHATER (1968:203) the species *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer (= *E. romanum* (Burm. fil.) L'Her.) (Fig. 1) is distributed in the dry parts of the Mediterranean region (S. Portugal Co Cr Ga Gr Hs It Lu Sa Si Tu). PIGNATTI (1982) notes the species for Italian flora, belonging to the Mediterranean-Montane floristic element. The species is distributed over most of the Apennine peninsula.

We found the species in Premantura village, in the southernmost part of Istria (Premantura, UTM quadrant VK 16) (Fig. 2) A non-determined specimen in the M. Samardžić herbarium, collected at Poljice on the island of Krk (VL 60), also proved to be *E. acaule*.

*E. acaule* was sometimes regarded as a subspecies of *Erodium cicutarium* but the combination of acaulescence and its perennial and usually robust character makes it distinct (WEBB & CHATER, 1968:203). Acaulescent variants of *E. cicutarium* are

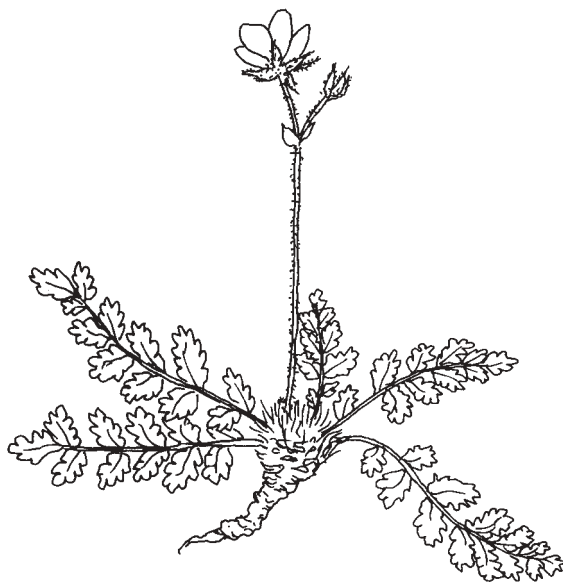


Fig. 1. *Erodium acaule* (drawing by J. Topić)

small and annual. PIGNATTI (1982) also says that *E. acaule* is similar to *E. cicutarium* but perennial.

Some authors dealing with the flora of the Mediterranean part of Croatia did not distinguish these two taxa as two species. VISIANI (1852:213) states that *Erodium cicutarium* has several varieties, some of them acaulescent. FREYN (1877:299) describes *E. cicutarium* as a very variable species, with simple, erect early spring plants with 1–2 flowers, hardly 3–5 cm high, while the summer plant lies flat, is abundantly branched and richly flowering, up to 50 cm long.

HAYEK (1975:581) notes *E. acaule* for Greece and Crete. Neither TOMMASINI (1873), investigating the flora of Premantura, nor the most recent investigations in this region (JANJANIN, 1997), noted the species. Index Florae Croaticae also does not record *E. acaule* (MARKOVIĆ, 1997:102). There are no specimens of *Erodium acaule* in the herbarium of Botanical Institute in Zagreb (ZA) either.

The specimens recently collected, in spite of their often dwarf habit, are without any exception perennials, with the scars of previous years' shoots on the woody base. The plant is small, 5–15 cm high. The flowers appear very early, sometimes in February, and it flowers until July. *Erodium acaule* grows on dry places, mostly in rocky grasslands and garigues while *E. cicutarium*, a therophyte, grows mostly as a weed in crops.

This is the first finding of the species *Erodium acaule* in Croatia. In further research in the Croatian Mediterranean area, where the species is probably widespread, it is necessary to pay particular attention to the two taxa, so as to obtain a clearer picture of their distribution.

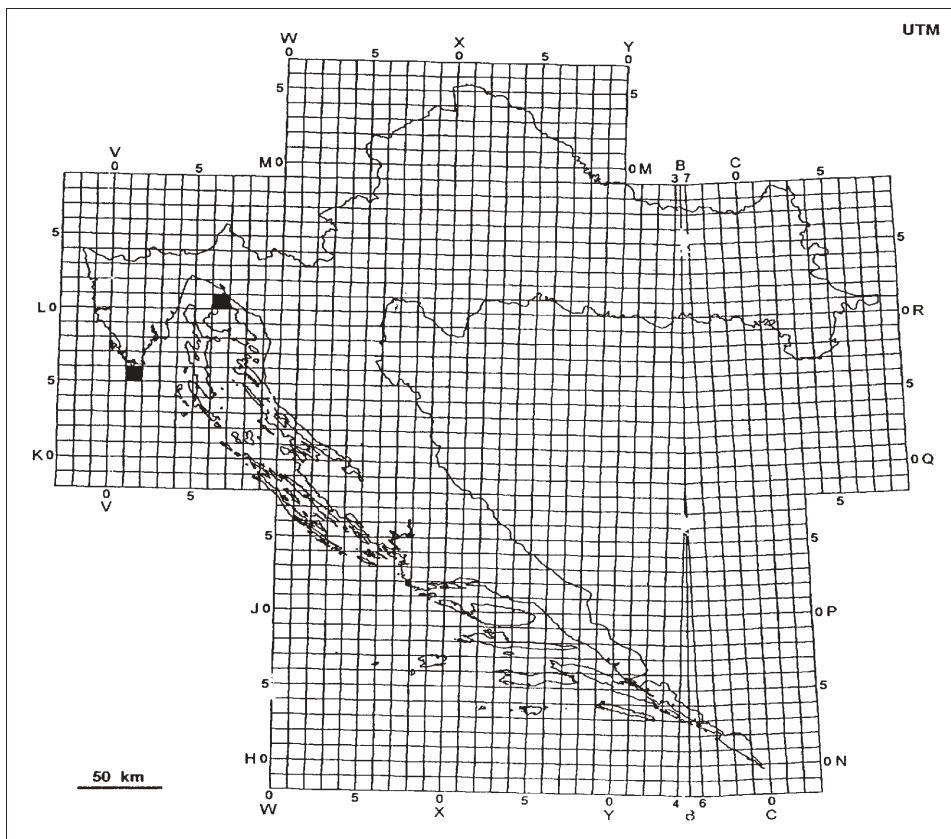


Fig. 2. Localities of the species *Erodium acaule* in Croatia

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## SAŽETAK

### *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer (Geraniaceae), nova vrsta hrvatske flore

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Vrsta *Erodium acaule* (L.) Becherer (= *E. romanum* (Burm. fil.) L'Her.) (sl. 1) nađena je u južnoj Istri u okolici Premanture (UTM VK 16) i na otoku Krku kraj Poljica (UTM VL 60) (sl. 2). Dosad nije zabilježena u hrvatskoj flori iako je dosta raširena u susjednim mediteranskim zemljama. Pignatti je uvrštava u skupinu mediteransko-montanih biljaka.

Prema opisima vrste *E. cicutarium* u starijoj hrvatskoj botaničkoj literaturi, očito je da istraživači nisu razlikovali tu vrstu od svojte *E. acaule*. Prva je jednogodišnja do dvogodišnja dok je potonja višegodišnja biljka u koje se na odrvenjelom dijelu stabljike vide ožiljci izdanaka iz prethodnih godina. Osim toga, razlikuju se i po staništu. Vrsta *E. cicutarium* pretežno je korovna biljka, dok *E. acaule* raste uglavnom na kamenjarskim travnjacima i u bušicama (garizima).

U daljnjim istraživanjima u našem mediteranskom području potrebno je tim dvjema svojtima obratiti posebnu pozornost, kako bi se dobila jasnija slika o njihovoj rasprostranjenosti u Hrvatskoj.