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***Cytinus* (*Rafflesiaceae*), a new genus for the Bulgarian flora**

Abstract

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Cytinus clusii is reported for the first time from Bulgaria. It was found on *Cistus incanus* in the northern Strandža Mt. Short phytogeographical notes on this species are given. A new locality of *Cytinus clusii* from north-eastern Greece is recorded.

While studying the vascular flora of the protected locality of Pirena in the northern Strandža Mts in spring 1996, we discovered specimens of *Cytinus clusii* (*Rafflesiaceae*), parasitizing *Cistus incanus* L. *Cytinus clusii* is of a genus and family unknown up to now for the Bulgarian flora.

Cytinus clusii (Nyman) Gand., Fl. Cret.: 92. 1916 ≡ *C. hypocistis* subsp. *clusii* Nyman, Consp. Fl. Eur.: 645. 1881 [= *C. ruber* Fritsch, Excursionsfl. Österr., ed. 3: 69. 1922].

Specimens examined: — Bulgaria: Strandža Mts, the protected locality of Pirena above the village of Kosty, 42°07'N, 27°41'E, 26 May 1996 (SO No. 98169, SOM No. 152914, on *Cistus incanus*, with flowers); *ibid.*, 27 Jun 1996 (SOM No. 152915, *id.*, with fruits).

Cytinus clusii is a Mediterranean element. It grows in macchie, phrygana, *Pinus brutia* forest, and mixed forest, up to 450 m of alt. (rarely up to 800 m of alt., in Kriti). *Cytinus clusii* attacks the pink-flowered species of *Cistus* in Portugal, the Mediterranean region (Spain, Islas Baleares, coastal France, Corsica, Sardinia, Italian peninsula, Sicily, Greece, Kriti, Cyprus, Turkey, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia), and Georgia (Komarov 1936, McKean 1982, Pignatti 1982, Greuter & al. 1989, Webb & Akeroyd 1993).

The new locality is situated on a spur of the Bosnensko ridge in the north-eastern Bulgarian part of the Strandža Mountains. The terrain is exposed to SE, at c. 300 m of alt. The soil is dry, rather eroded, with some rocky outcrops. The vegetation is composed of xerothermic scrub communities of a Mediterranean type, dominated by *Erica arborea* and *Calluna vulgaris* associated with *Cistus incanus*, *Genista carinalis*, *Cistus salviifolius*, *Hypericum montbretii*, *H. cerastoides*, *Dorycnium graecum*, *Ornithopus compressus*, *Echium plantagineum*, *Hypochoeris glabra*, *Chrysopogon gryllus*, *Briza maxima*, *Aira elegans*, *Poa bulbosa*, etc. In Bulgaria, this community type is limited to parts of the Strandža Mountains where it is the object of conservation efforts.

The new locality of *Cytinus clusii* is the northernmost occurrence on the Balkan Peninsula. From nearby Turkey-in-Europe, the species is only known from the vicinity of Istanbul (McKean 1982). It has been recorded for Greece from the Ionian Islands, Central Greece, the Peloponnesus, and the Aegean islands, including Thasos and Samothraki (Hayek 1927, Jalas & Suominen 1976). In the *Atlas florae europaeae*, *Cytinus clusii* is not mapped for western Thrace but it has in fact been collected there in 1914 by Davidoff (1915). There is a specimen in SOM (No. 17 345), under *Cytinus hypocistis* L.: "In dumetis Thraciae occidentalis, Badoma, ad urbem Dede-Agatsch" [today Alexandroupolis], 16 May 1914, *B. Davidoff*. It is not unlikely that this taxon may yet be found in other parts of Bulgaria with a Mediterranean climate, where *Cistus incanus* is widespread, especially in the eastern Rodopi Mountains and along the southern Black Sea coast.

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