

Euphorbia agraria M. Bieb. found in the Czech Republic (Euphorbiaceae)

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ČÁP J. 2008: *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb. found in the Czech Republic (Euphorbiaceae). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **93**: 153–156. – An introduced species, *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb., previously not recorded in central Europe, has been found in the Pannonian part of Moravia, Czech Republic.

Key words. *Euphorbia agraria*, new record, Czech republic

Euphorbia agraria M. Bieb.

[syn.: *Tithymalus agrarius* (M. Bieb.) Klotsch]

Taxonomy. The species was described by BIEBERSTEIN (*Fl. Taur. Caus.* **1**: 375, 1808) from plants growing in Crimea within the genus *Euphorbia*, subgen. *Esula* Pers. [syn.: *Paralias* (Rafin.) Prokh.] sect. *Esula*. In that section there is a group defined (according to the Flora Europaea) as “Raylet-leaves not concentrate; axillary non-flowering branches usually present”. Besides *Euphorbia agraria* mentioned above, this group includes species indigenous in the Czech Republic e.g. *E. lucida* Waldst. et Kit., *E. salicifolia* Host and *E. esula* L., which species are the closest relatives of this species.

The following is the description of *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb. in the Flora Europaea (SMITH & TUTIN 1968):

“Glabrous, perennial up to 90 cm, unbranched at the base and with 0–3 axillary non-flowering branches and (2–) 24 axillary rays. Leaves (15–) 25–45 (–80) × 7–27 mm, triangular-ovate or oblong or [var. *subhastata* (Vis. et Pančic) Griseb.] linguulate panduriform or [var. *euboea* (Halácsy) Hayek] linear-lanceolate, broadly cordate-auriculate at the base, amplexicaul., more or less entire. Ray-leaves like the cauline. Raylet-leaves triangular-subreniform. Rays (6–) 8–14, up to three times dichotomous. Glands emarginate or with 2 short horns. Capsule 2.5–3 × 3–3.5 mm, deeply sulcate, granulate-rugose on the keels. Seeds 2 mm, ovoid, grey.”

New record. On August 18, 2005, I found *Euphorbia agraria* when compiling a list of the flora in an area lying close to the Malé Strany nature reserve (also called Steingrund, Štokgrund) near Komořany na Moravě in the down line described in the maps as “Peklo” (49°11′39.641″N, 16°55′18.985″E). The following is a verbatim copy of the herbarium label: “20a. Bučov. pah., Komořany na Mor., opuštěné terasy – lada – v mělkém údolí jjz. od rez. Malé Strany, 2,1 km jjz. od středu obce Podbřežice, 290 m n.m., 18. 08. 2005”. I failed to determine the plant. Vladimír Řehořek from the Masaryk University in Brno kindly identified it and compared it with other herbarium specimens.

The herbarium specimen the newly-found *Euphorbia* was deposited in the BRNU herbarium under no. 561048.

In the locality mentioned, only a single vital plant was found in a degrading xerothermic plant community, together with species of the *Festucion valesiaca* and the *Bromion* alliances.

Discussion

From the territory of pre-WWII Hungary, the species was reported by JÁVORKA (1924: 686) as growing in field regions in sunny and dry sites in the region denoted in that book as “Erd.” (= Erdély v. Keleti Karpátok, which roughly corresponds to the territories of eastern Slovakia, the Carpathian Ukraine, and Romania; see map in that book), without giving any concrete localities. The overall distribution is reported as the region of the eastern Balkans, the south “Oroszország”, and Asia Minor. A pen-and-ink drawing of the plant appears in the illustrated flora by JÁVORKA & CSAPODY (1975). According to more recent data (PROCHANOV 1949, SMITH & TUTIN 1968), the species is distributed over south-eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, former Yugoslavia, Turkey) and the Crimea, around the Black Sea, and former Bessarabia in today’s Ukraine.

References

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Fig. 1. *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb.: herbarium sheet.



Fig. 2. *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb.: detail of flowers.



Fig. 3. *Euphorbia agraria* M. Bieb.: detail of leaves.