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DOES *AQUILEGIA TRANSSILVANICA* SCHUR (*RANUNCULACEAE*) OCCUR IN THE UKRAINIAN CARPATHIANS?

Key words: *Aquilegia transsilvanica*, *Carpathians*, *endemic species*, *distribution*, *range*

Abstract. Analysis of the protologue of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur, examination of its lectotype and the herbarium material that represents the genus *Aquilegia* L. in the Ukrainian Carpathians showed that the species does not occur in the region. Information in some Ukrainian and Russian publications about the occurrence of *A. transsilvanica* in the Chychynty and Svydovets Mts. is erroneous and based on inadequate treatment of the species characters.

Introduction

Ukrainian and Russian floristic literature of the last decades mentions three species belonging to the genus *Aquilegia* L. that supposedly occur in the Ukrainian Carpathians, namely *A. vulgaris* L., *A. nigricans* Baumg., and *A. transsilvanica* Schur [3–7, 12, 13, 16].

The first of these species has a vast Eurasian range, which includes the major part of Europe, except some northern and eastern areas of the continent, and covers much of the territory of Ukraine [2–7, 11, 25, 30, 33, 42].

Aquilegia nigricans (= *A. longisepala* Zimmeter = *A. haenkeana* Koch = *A. sternbergii* Rchb.) is a montane taxon with the East-Alpine–Carpathian–Balkan pattern of distribution [21, 23, 25, 28, 38, 44]. Among the countries of the Carpathian region, in addition to Ukraine, it is known also from Romania and the Slovak Republic [24, 29, 34], though its occurrence in the latter country has been doubted [27]. It belongs to the *A. vulgaris* group and is so closely related to the last species that many authors [21, 23, 29, 31, 34] consider it merely a subspecies, *A. vulgaris* subsp. *nigricans* (Baumg.) Jáv. That treatment will also be used further in this article.

Localities of the abovementioned taxa from the *A. vulgaris* group in the territory of the Ukrainian Carpathians lie within the main parts of their ranges and their occurrence is quite expectable there. However, the situation with *Aquilegia transsilvanica* looks different (Fig. 1) because the distribution of that species (except its supposed Ukrainian localities) is confined merely to Central Romania over 200 km to the south of the Ukrainian Carpathians [21, 23, 24, 34]. Such an extraordinary distribution pattern is theoretically possible but hardly explainable. It is also remarkable that the first mentions of the species in the Ukrainian part of the Carpathians appeared only in the second half of the 20th century, i.e. during the Soviet period, while the previous au-

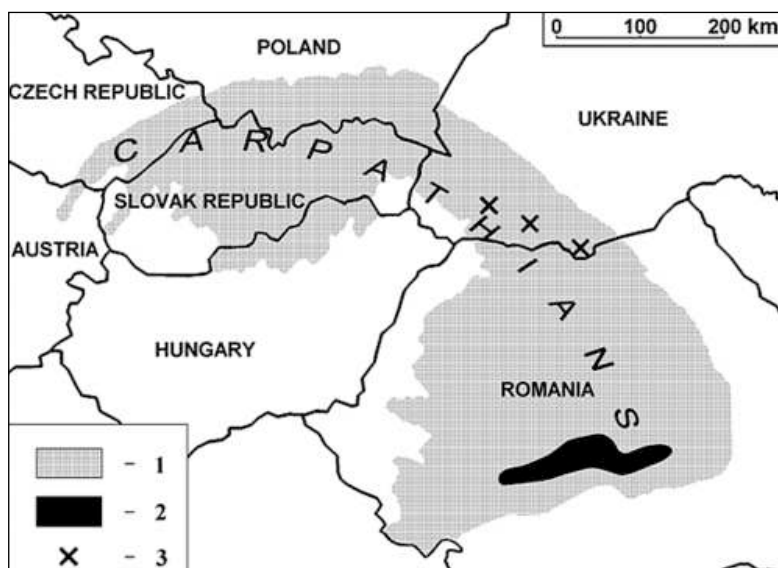


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur.: 1 – territory of the Carpathians, 2 – species range, 3 – erroneously reported localities from the Ukrainian Carpathians

thors, even those who studied the Carpathian flora most thoroughly and analyzed the distribution of narrow-ranged species [36, 43, 45], never reported *A. transsilvanica* to that region of the Carpathians. These facts show the need for a more profound investigation into that issue in order to clarify the status of the species in Ukraine.

The goal of this article is to analyze the descriptions of *A. transsilvanica*, stated in the species' protologue made by F. Schur [39] and in the later publication of that author [40], as well as to reveal the characters of its lectotype, which comes from Mt. Arpash, the Fagarash Range in Romania, in order to compare it with the plants from the Ukrainian Carpathians and find out whether the species really occurs in the region.

Materials and Methods

The lectotype of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* was examined. It is deposited in F. Schur's personal collection at the Herbarium of Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, Ukraine. Other specimens of that species, gathered by F. Schur who was the first to describe *A. transsilvanica*, were also checked, as well as several sheets representing it, which came from Romania and are kept at the Herbarium of Yuri Fed'kovych National University of Chernivtsi, Ukraine. Some of them were issued by E.I. Nyárády in the 1930s within the *Flora Romaniae Exsiccata* that was also distributed among the main European herbaria.

Protologues of *A. transsilvanica* [39] and *A. vulgaris* subsp. *nigricans* (= *A. nigricans*) [22], as well as descriptions of the representatives of the genus *Aquilegia* occurring in the Carpathians made by F. Schur [40], L. Simonkai [41], S. Jávorka [31], O.D. Visyulina [6, 7], E.I. Nyárády [34], M. Skalińska [42], R. Soó & É. Endrödy-Kovács [44],

H. Riedl [38], J. Futák [29], V.I. Chopyk et al. [5], A. Beldie [24], S.S. Morozyuk [16], J. Cullen et al. [25], M.I. Vasilyeva [3, 4], and M.A. Fischer et al. [28] were analyzed.

The specimens belonging to that genus collected in the Ukrainian Carpathians were studied in the herbaria of Ukraine and Poland at the following institutions: Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (LW); State Natural History Museum, Lviv (LWS); M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Kyiv (KW); Yuri Fed'kovich National University of Chernivtsi (CHER); National University of Uzhgorod (UU); Institute of Ecology of the Carpathians, Lviv (LWKS); W. Szafer Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow (KRAM); and Jagellonian University of Krakow (KRA).

Individuals of *Aquilegia* were also examined on site in the Chyvchyny, the Svydovets and the Gorgany Mts., from where *Aquilegia transsilvanica* was reported [1, 12–15, 18–20]. Herbarium samples collected there were deposited at the herbaria of M.G. Kholodny Institute of Botany (KW) and the State Natural History Museum, Lviv.

Results

Thorough examination of the protologue [39] and the lectotype of *A. transsilvanica* enabled to reveal the authentic understanding of the species' characters. In general, it corresponds with later descriptions made by the authors who studied the plants from Romania [24, 31, 32, 34, 40–42], but somewhat differs from those used in some Ukrainian and Russian publications [3–7].

Aquilegia transsilvanica is a high-mountain herbaceous perennial. Its height ranges typically within 15–25 cm and rarely exceeds that value [42]. Basal leaves biternate, glabrous or subglabrous adaxially and scarcely pubescent abaxially, with petioles 4–12 cm long. Stem leaves ternate or trifid, small, upper ones bract-like. Flowering stem poorly foliated, grooved, tinged with dark-violet, mostly glabrous, but glandular-pubescent in its uppermost part. Flowers usually solitary (rarely 2), blue or blue-violet. Sepals 27–36 × 12–17 mm, oblong-ovate to elliptic, with apex obtuse to rounded or slightly retuse; and base abruptly narrowed into a well-developed claw (unquiculus). Petals 25–34 mm long (together with spur). Spur thick, saccate, hooked, shorter than petal blade in proportion ca. 2/3. Stamens shorter than or equal to petals. Carpels (5–)8(–10). Follicles 18–24 mm long, scarcely and shortly pubescent, laterally nerved, with short persistent styles (rostellae). Seeds black, opaque. Calcicole, confined mostly to steep slopes.

Interspecific differentiation in the genus *Aquilegia* is based mostly on the shape, size and color of perianth segments [11, 30, 37]. The perianth is pentamerous, consisting of the outer whorl of segments – petaloid sepals, and the inner part – petals (honey-leaves), which have a blade and a nectary spur.

All the authors [2–4, 10, 40, 42] are unanimous that *A. transsilvanica* is taxonomically most closely related to *A. glandulosa* Fisch. ex Link – an Asian high-mountain species known from Siberia, Central Asia, Mongolia, and China [2–3, 17, 27]. Both species belong to the *A. glandulosa* group, which some authors considered a separate infrageneric taxon and gave it various ranks, depending on the taxonomic approach

[2–3]. *Aquilegia transsilvanica* differs from *A. glandulosa* in (1) smaller size, (2) lower number of flowers, (3) longer petals, which together with spurs are about as long as sepals, (4) lower ratio of the petal blade to spur length, and (5) smaller flowers [3, 41, 42].

Other Carpathian representatives of *Aquilegia* belong to the *A. vulgaris* group, which is taxonomically more distant from the *A. glandulosa* group. *Aquilegia transsilvanica* differs from members of the *A. vulgaris* group in a number of characters (Table), namely: (1) spur *thick, saccate* and *shorter* than petal blade, (2) sepal apex *obtuse* or *rounded*, (3) sepal base *abruptly* narrowed in a claw, (4) stamens *never exceed* petals, (5) follicles with *short* persistent styles, (6) stem mostly *uniflorous*. Not all of these characters were adequately depicted in modern Ukrainian and Russian publications containing identification keys on the genus *Aquilegia* [3–5, 16]. The mentioned keys were focused mainly on the characters of the petals, but almost neglected the sepals. However, the protologue of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* paid attention to the shape of sepals and clearly stated that they are *obtuse* [39]. (This distinguishing character is well noticeable both in live and herbarized plants and does not need preparation of flowers during identification). The later descriptions made by F. Schur [40], L. Simonkai [41], E.I. Nyáryády [34] and M. Skalińska [42] provided some additional characters concerning the petal apex, number of flowers, length of persistent styles in follicles, and surface of seeds, which are mentioned above.

Examination of the vast spectrum of specimens of *Aquilegia* from the Ukrainian Carpathians showed that all of them in fact belong to the *A. vulgaris* s. l. and statements about the occurrence of *A. transsilvanica* in that region are not confirmed by any herbarium material. Fig. 2 illustrates the differences in characters of sepals, petals and follicles between *A. transsilvanica* and plants from the Ukrainian Carpathians that occur in the Chyvchyny, the Svydovets and the Gorgany Mts. where the species was

Morphological characters of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur vs. the *Aquilegia vulgaris* L. group (including *A. vulgaris* L. subsp. *nigricans* (Baumg.) Jáv.)

Character	<i>Aquilegia transsilvanica</i>	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i> group
Height, cm	(10–)15–25(–30)	(15–)20–40(–70)
Proportion between spur and petal blade	Spur shorter than petal blade	Spur longer than petal blade
Shape of spur	Thick, saccate, hooked	Thin, hooked
Shape of sepal apex	Obtuse, rounded or slightly retuse	Acute, subacute or acuminate
Shape of sepal claw	Abruptly narrowed	Smoothly tapered
Length of stamens	Shorter or almost equal to petals	Equal or longer than petals
Number of carpels	(5–)8(–10)	(3–)5–8
Length of persistent styles in follicles	Short (3–3.5 mm)	Long (over 5 mm)
Number of flowers	Mostly 1, rarely 2	Mostly ≥2, rarely 1

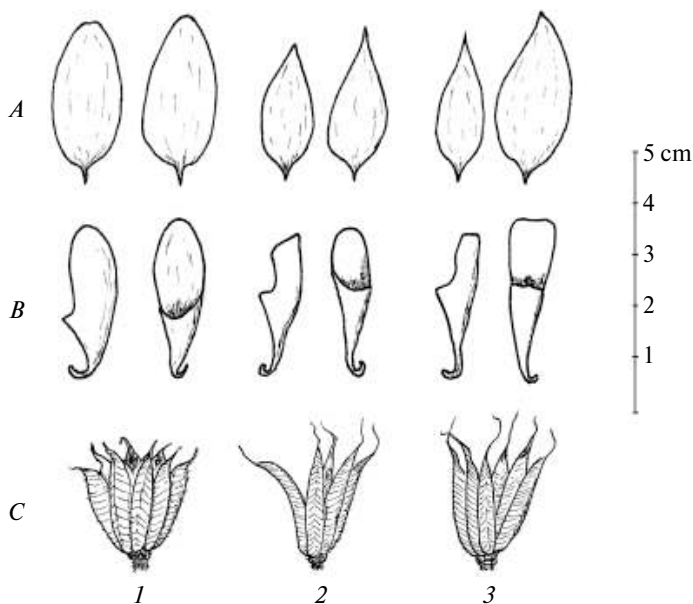


Fig. 2. Sepals (A), petals (B) and follicles (C) of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur from the Fagarash Mts. (1) in Romania; and *Aquilegia vulgaris* subsp. *nigricans* (Baumg.) Jav. From Mt. Chorny Dil, the Chyvchyny Mts. (2) and Mt. Gereshaska, the Svydovets Mts. (3) in the Ukrainian Carpathians

erroneously reported [1, 12–15, 18–20]. The plants from these and some other Ukrainian mountainous localities can be classified as *A. vulgaris* subsp. *nigricans*, while those from lower elevations – as *A. vulgaris* subsp. *vulgaris*. It should be admitted that the differences between these taxa are fairly elusive and, according to new publications, the presence of glandular pubescence on stem cannot be used as a reliable diagnostic tool [25, 28]. As hybridization is quite common within the *A. vulgaris* group [37], the infra-specific classification of plants from some localities is rather problematic.

According to F. Schur [39, 40] and other authors who observed *A. transsilvanica* in its Romanian habitats [34, 41], as well as to herbarium notes, the species is a markedly high-mountain plant confined to the elevations of ca. 1900–2200 m above sea level (a.s.l.). However, all the localities of *Aquilegia* in the Chernivtsi Region of Ukraine are located at much lower altitudes, below 1500 m a.s.l. This especially concerns the pass of Dzhogul that lies only about 1150 m a.s.l. but was reported by V.I. Chopyk [18–20] as a supposed location of *A. transsilvanica*.

There are also indications that in Romania *A. transsilvanica* often occurs in semi-shadowed rocky sites in the neighborhood of *Alnus viridis* (Chaix) DC. or in rather moist habitats near the streams and waterfalls [39, 40], i.e. it is hygromesophytic, which is in common with the related Asian species *A. glandulosa* [2–3, 17, 26]. In contrast, all the localities of *Aquilegia* in the Ukrainian Carpathians are markedly mesophytic or even xero-mesophytic.

This shows that the statements about the occurrence of *A. transsilvanica* in Ukraine are most probably erroneous (at least, not confirmed by any solid evidence),

and it was interesting to trace back their appearance. The first report of occurrence of *A. transsilvanica* in the Ukrainian Carpathians was made by O.D. Visyulina in the *Identification Manual...* [6] and in the *Flora of the Ukrainian SSR* [7] in the early 1950s. The author mentioned the first edition of the «Polish Flora», which erroneously reports that the species is known from Bukovyna [35, p. 16]. Apparently, O.D. Visyulina inferred that this concerns the Bukovyna Carpathians in the Chernivtsi Region of Ukraine. However, until then no valid data existed on the species' occurrence either in the northern (Ukrainian) or southern (Romanian) parts of Bukovyna. Such errors happened in early volumes of the *Flora of the Ukrainian SSR* published soon after the reunification of Ukraine when local botanists lacked valid chorological data concerning the western part of the Republic. For example, this refers to *Eritrichium nanum* (L.) Schraeder ex Gaudin and *Gentiana frigida* Haenke, which were also erroneously reported from the Ukrainian Carpathians in the *Flora of the Ukrainian SSR* [8, 9].

Most probably, later the information about *A. transsilvanica* in Ukrainian Bukovyna was taken for granted by V.I. Chopyk, who reported it from the pass of Dzhogul and Mt. Chorny Dil [18–20]. These are the only localities in the Chernivtsi Region where representatives of the genus *Aquilegia* occur over 1000 m a.s.l. However, none of the herbarium specimens from these localities, including those gathered by V.I. Chopyk, belongs to *A. transsilvanica*. Though the figure of that species in the *Identification Manual on Plants of the Ukrainian Carpathians* edited by V.I. Chopyk [5, p. 109] shows its characters correctly, it is merely a copy from the *Flora of Romania* [34] and does not depict any actual Ukrainian material. Similarly, illustration of the species in another V.I. Chopyk's publication [18, p. 40] comes from *Iconographia florae...* prepared by S. Jávorka and V. Csapody [32].

Some misinterpretations concerning *A. transsilvanica* come from the recent publications by I.V. Vasilyeva [3, 4]. They demonstrate a misleading understanding of the species' characters that is obviously shown in the figure, which supposedly should depict it [4, p. 185]. Thus, the flower on that picture has evidently *acute* sepals that are *much longer* than petals, which contradicts the protologue. Similarly short petals (together with the spur) are shown for «*Aquilegia nigricans*», which is also incorrect, because that proportion is not peculiar to that taxon as well. Because of such shortcomings, I.V. Vasilyeva's publications cannot be used to analyze the taxonomic position of representatives of the genus *Aquilegia* in Ukraine.

Conclusion

The information about occurrence of *Aquilegia transsilvanica* in the Ukrainian Carpathians is misleading. In fact, based on current knowledge, the species should be considered as being endemic to Romania [21, 23, 34]. The main part of its range lies in the Southern Carpathians, namely in the Paring, Fagarash (where it is most abundant), Iezer, and Buchegi Mts. The species also occurs in the Buzau Mts. situated on the southernmost edge of the Eastern Carpathians [21, 24, 34, 39–41] (Fig 1). It has a very restricted range, which covers a stripe only about 210 km long. This range is continuous, undispersed and does not exhibit any significant disjunctions. It has never

been reported from any other mountainous regions of Romania, where the conditions are suitable for the species. Therefore, occurrence of *A. transsilvanica* in some remote localities scattered in the other parts of the Carpathians is hardly possible.

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ИНСТИТУТ ЕКОЛОГІЇ КАРПАТ НАН УКРАЇНИ, м. ЛЬВІВ
ЧИ ТРАПЛЯЄТЬСЯ В УКРАЇНСЬКИХ КАРПАТАХ
AQUILEGIA TRANSILVANICA SCHUR (*RANUNCULACEAE*)?

На підставі аналізу протологу і лектотипу *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur, а також перегляду гербарного матеріалу, який представляє рід *Aquilegia* L. в Українських Карпатах, встановлено, що цей вид не трапляється у вказаному регіоні. Відомості про наявність *A. transsilvanica* у Чивчинських горах, на Свидовці та в Горганах, подані в деяких українських і російських публікаціях, є хибними і ґрунтуються на неадекватному трактуванні характерних ознак виду.

Ключові слова: *Aquilegia transsilvanica*, Карпати, ендемічний вид, поширення, ареал.

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ВСТРЕЧАЕТСЯ ЛИ В УКРАИНСКИХ КАРПАТАХ *AQUILEGIA TRANSILVANICA*
SCHUR (*RANUNCULACEAE*)?

На основаниі анализа протолога и лектотипа *Aquilegia transsilvanica* Schur, а также просмотра гербарного материала, представляющего род *Aquilegia* L. в Украинских Карпатах, установлено, что этот вид не встречается в указанном регионе. Сведения о наличии *A. transsilvanica* в Чивчинских горах, на Свидовце и в Горганах, приведенные в некоторых украинских и российских публикациях, являются ошибочными и базируются на неадекватной трактовке характерных признаков вида.

Ключевые слова: *Aquilegia transsilvanica*, Карпаты, эндемический вид, распространение, ареал.