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Nomenclatural notes on three names in *Viola* Sect. *Melanium* (Violaceae)

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Abstract

This paper provides information on the typification of the three names in *Viola* Sect. *Melanium*: *Viola dukadjinica*, *V. grisebachiana* and *V. orbelica*. All the specimens designated as lectotypes here are deposited in BEOU.

Introduction

Genus *Viola* Linnaeus (1753: 933) is the largest genus of the *Violaceae* with 525–600 species distributed throughout the most frost-free regions of the world (Clausen 1964, Ballard 1996). The section *Melanium* Gingins de la Sarraz (1823: 23) is a morphologically well-defined group within the genus of about 80–100 species, and its geographical distribution extends through Europe and westernmost Asia (Ballard 1996). A few species are found in Northern Africa, while one species turns up as probably native in North America (Clausen *et al.* 1964). The centre of diversity lies on the Balkan Peninsula, along with numerous endemic taxa in that region (Stevanović & Niketić 1990).

In his monograph on *Viola* sect. *Melanium*, Erben (1985) recorded 50 species for the Balkans, of which 11 were new to science. In the same paper, in addition to data on taxonomy, morphology and geography, Erben typified all studied *Viola* species. Although he searched for the original material in numerous herbaria, he did not find all the original exsiccates. At that time, there was no curator in the herbarium BEOU of Belgrade (Vukojičić *et al.* 2011), and the collection was not reported in the Index Herbariorum (Thiers 2013, continuously updated). Many scientists thought this collection was completely destroyed during World War II, including Erben who designated neotypes for several *Viola* species, not being aware that the original material for some of them still exists in BEOU. The herbarium BEOU holds the original material for three species of *Viola*, the study of which now allows for new and corrected typifications.

Material and methods

Material deposited in the Herbarium BEOU (Herbarium of the Institute of Botany and Botanical Garden, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade, Serbia) has been studied.

Results and discussion

For each name we provide information on the previous typifications, as well as on the localities and specimens cited in the protologue.

Viola dukadjinica Becker & Košanin (in Becker 1926: 145)

Type:—ALBANIA. Northern Albania: Maja Rauns, serpentine, 1400 m, 4 June 1913, *N. Košanin s.n.* (lectotype BEOU 41953!, designated here). Fig. 1.

Notes:—In the protologue Becker & Košanin (in Becker 1926: 145) did not cite a holotype. However, sheets of one gathering collected by Košanin on the locality Maja Rauns on 4 June 1913 in two herbaria ('*the Herbarium in Belgrade and the Herbarium of W. Becker in Berlin*') were cited as 'Typus'. Therefore, the two specimens are to be considered as syntypes (ICN Art. 9.5, McNeill *et al.* 2012). Becker & Košanin also cited in the protologue two additional collections, *Markgraf 734a* from Mali Shebenikut and *Markgraf 601* from Mali Kaptin Martaneshit; both are paratypes (ICN Art 9.6).

Later on, Erben (1985: 426) designated as neotype a duplicate of one of the specimens collected by Markgraf from BP, believing that all the original material was destroyed. He cited the paratype specimen with the collector number *734 a*, therefore, the 'neotype' must be considered as a lectotype (ICN Art. 9.9).

Finally, in BEOU, Stevanović and Niketić discovered one of the syntypes mentioned in the protologue, and named it as an isotype (Stevanović & Niketić 1990: 320). On the label of the herbarium specimen they wrote 'lectotypus' (Fig. 1), but an error occurred in the paper and the citation as isotype was published. Since Erben's lectotypification was not in conformity with ICN Art. 9.12 (syntypes have priority over paratypes), his choice could be superseded by discovering one of the syntypes (ICN Art. 9.19).



FIGURE 1. Lectotype of *Viola dukadjinica* W. Becker & Košanin (BEOU 41953)

However, we cannot be sure whether the isotype citation published by Stevanović & Niketić (1990: 320) was only a printing error or if they had the intention to designate the other syntype specimen as lectotype, thus we designate here the specimen in BEOU as lectotype.

Viola grisebachiana Visiani (in Visiani & Pančić 1861: 433)

Type:—SERBIA. Aleksinac district: Rtanj Mountain, July 1847, *Pančić s.n.* (lectotype BEOU 15052!, designated here). Fig. 2.

Note:—Pančić collected the plant material on Rtanj Mountain in 1847 and identified it as *V. calcarata* Linnaeus (1753: 935). This record was later published under the name *V. nummulariifolia* Allioni (1785: 98) by Pančić (1856: 506, ‘*M. Rtanj im Aleksinacer Kr.*’). On the basis of this material Visiani later described *V. grisebachiana* (in Visiani & Pančić 1861: 436), citing Pančić’s record of ‘*V. nummulariifolia*’ as a synonym. On the label of the lectotype now designated Pančić crossed out *calcarata*—his original name on the label, and added the name *grisebachiana* (Fig. 2).

The specimen that Erben used for typification cannot be considered as a part of the original material, since it was collected eight years after the publication date of the protologue (Art 9.3 ICN):

Type:—SERBIA. Rtanj Mountain, Apr. 869 [April 1869], *Pančić s.n.* (neotype WU-Herb. Kerner, designated by Erben 1985: 434; isoneotype G)



FIGURE 2. Lectotype of *Viola grisebachiana* Vis. (BEOU 15052)

Hence, Erben's choice of the neotype is superseded with the original material rediscovered (Art. 9.19, McNeill *et al.* 2012).

Viola orbelica Pančić (1883: 16)

Type:—BULGARIA. Kyustendil Province: Rila Mountain, in saxosis excelsiorib. [excelsioribus], Aug. 883 [August 1883], Pančić *s.n.* (lectotype BEOU 3272!, designated here). Fig. 3.

Note:—When describing his new species, Pančić cited only Mountain Rila (Bulgaria) in the protologue. Assuming that Pančić's herbarium collection was destroyed during the bombing of Belgrade in 1942, Erben (1985: 637) designated a neotype from the material collected on Pirin Mountain by Merxmüller & Zollitsch deposited in M:

Type:—BULGARIA. Blagoevgrad district: Pirin, on the way from the cottage Vihren to the top of Vihren, silicate rocks, 2000 m, 1 August 1968, Merxmüller & Zollitsch 23983 (neotype M, designated by Erben 1985: 637).

The specimen of *V. orbelica* collected by Pančić on Mountain Rila, which unambiguously belongs to the original material, is designated here as the lectotype, superseding the neotype of Erben.



FIGURE 3. Lectotype of *Viola orbelica* Pančić (BEOU 3272)

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