

## IS *JASIONE HELDREICHII* BOISS. ET ORPH. SYNONYM TO *J. JANKAE* NEILR.?

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**Summary:** In the „Flora of Romania” *Jasione jankae* is presented as a synonym name at *J. heldreichii* Boiss. et Orph. After an analysis of some samples collected from the “**locus classicus**” (Mountain Treșcovăț, Banat), we are demonstrating that *J. heldreichii* and *J. jankae* are two separated plant species, point of view backed by Janka & Hayek.

**Key words:** *Jasione heldreichii*, synonymy, *Jasione jankae*.

This taxa is spread in Caraș-Severin and Mehedinți counties, between Gura Văii and Svinița, on a distance of ca. 70 Km, along the Danube river, on rocky fields (3).

In the botanical reference material, this taxa has various values and names, thus:

1. *J. montana* L. var. *dentata* A. DC. (1);
2. *J. dentata* (DC.) Hel. (2, 3, 6);
3. *J. jankae* Neilr. (5);
4. *J. heldreichii* Boiss. et Orph. (incl. *J. jankae* Neilr.) (7, 8).

In herbariums, there are the same differences between authors:

1. *J. jankae* Neilr. Herb. BUAG, the Mountain of Treșcovăț, Janka, 1870;
2. *J. jankae* Neilr. Herb. Cluj, Vârciorova, Prodan, 1909;
3. *J. jankae* Neilr. var. *subulata* Simk. Herb. BUCA, between Vârciorova and Gura Văii, Prodan, 1919;
4. *J. dentata* (DC.) Hel., Fl. Rom. Exs., 3278, Borza and colab., 1941, Tricule prope Svinița.

In July, 2003, the author of this paper, has collected from the Mountain of Treșcovăț some specimens of *Jasione*, which, after an analyzing of them, proved to be *J. jankae*, and not *J. heldreichii*. These two taxa must be considered as separated plant species, like Hayek proceeded to (5), thus existing herbarium materials collected by Janka and Prodan.

Here are the difference features of the two taxa:

*Jasione heldreichii* Boiss. et Orph. (*J. dentata* (A. DC.) Halácsy) (Fig. No. 1) is an annual-biannual species, without steril and leaved offsprings; rarely exists basal leaves in rosettes. The stem is of 20-40 cm in height. The whole plant has hispid hairs; sometimes, the plant is glabrous or nearly glabrous. The leaves are linear-lanceolate, those on the stem are sessile, distanced dentated, of 15-30 mm longer and 2-4 mm wide. The involucral hypsophylla are lanceolated, distanced and deeply dentated, having acuminate-aristated teeth.  $2n = 12$  (8).

Spread in Romania: between Gura Văii (Mehedinți county) and Svinița (Caraș-Severin county), also at Băile Herculane, on rocky fields (3).

General area: Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania (8). Inside of this area is included, also, *J. jankae* (8). Accordingly Hayek (5), this species is spreaded only in Bulgaria, Thracia, Macedonia, and Thesalia.

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*J. jankae* Neilr. (Fig. No. 2) is a perennial plant species, having sterile and leaved offsprings at the base of plant. There are numerous stems, glabrous in the higher part, of 20-40 cm in height. The leaves are narrow-linear, of 1-2 mm wide, those on the stems are sessile, of 2-3 cm in length, those of the sterile offsprings are of 3-7 cm in length, being long-petiololed. The lamina is sparing and distanced dentated. The involucreal hypsophylla are lanceolated, distanced dentated, having acuminate teeth.

Spread in Romania: in rocky fissures, on the Mountain of Treșcovăț, Vârciorova, between Vârciorova and Gura Văii.

General area: Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia (5); thus, this species has a northern area in comparison with *J. heldreichii*.

Discussion concerning the diagnosis: the description of this species in Flora of Romania, tome no. IX (3), as well as the iconography from the Plate no. 24, Fig. no. 4, is corresponding, in a great part, to the one of the taxon *J. jankae*, which is a perennial plant species, and *J. heldreichii* is annual (7) or biannual one (8). The height of this species is 20-40 cm for both of the taxa, not of 10-22 cm in height (3). The spread and the ecology are not different, due to the fact that the author synonymyze the two taxa. In *Flora Europaea*, Tome no. 4 (8), there is a nuance concerning the synonymy of those two taxa, cited *J. heldreichii* inclusively *J. jankae*. This statement draw the attention over the taxonomical interpretation of the two taxa.

In conclusion, we consider, as Hayek do it already (59), the taxa *J. heldreichii* and *J. jankae* are not synonymous, and, therefore, they must be treated as different plant species.

In Romania, there are growing both of the species. The material from Fl. Rom. Exs. no. 3278 is *J. heldreichii*, and our material from the Mountain of Treșcovăț, is *J. jankae*.

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Fig. 1 – *Jasione heldreichii* Boiss. ex Orph.



Fig. 2 – *Jasione jankae* Neilr.