

GALIUM RUTHENICUM WILLD. IN FLORA OF ROMANIA

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Abstract: A newly identified species in the vascular flora of Romania, namely *Galium ruthenicum* Willd. is published now. This taxa has been identified in Tulcea county, Dobrudja province. It is grown on sunny, rocky places. It is also mentioned the differences against *Galium verum* L., a morphologically close taxa in flora of Romania.

Keywords: *Galium ruthenicum*, features, ecology, distribution, Romania's flora

Introduction

The genus *Galium* L. has 145 species in *Flora Europaea* [EHRENDORFER & KRENDL, 1976]. In Romania, the same genus *Galium* L. include 27 species [PAUCĂ & NYÁRÁDY, 1961]. Later on, there has been added other 9 species [CIOCÂRLAN, 2009]. Thus, in Romania's flora there are 38 species in the genus of *Galium* L.

There is added an other species in this *Galium* L. genus in this paper.

Galium ruthenicum Willd., Sp. Pl. 1: 597 (1798) (*G. verum* L. subsp. *ruthenicum* (Willd.) P. Fourn.) is a morphologically close to a common species in flora of Romania, namely de *G. verum* L. These two species, *Galium ruthenicum* Willd. and *G. verum* L., are distinguished by several features presented further on, but especially by their ecology and distribution area.

Characteristics

The detailed description of *Galium ruthenicum* Willd. is made in *Flora of the USSR*, vol. XXIII [POBEDIMOVA, 1958]. The own characteristics of this species are like the next:

- leaves linear-filiforms, 7-8 in whorls (at *G. verum* the leaves are disposed as 8-12 in whorls), 25-30 mm long and 0.5 mm wide (at *G. verum* the leaves are of 0.5-1.5 (–2) mm wide);
- pedicels and especially the fruits have densely, harsh hairs (at *G. verum* the fruits are glabrous) (Fig. 1).

Distribution and ecology

From distribution and ecology points of view, these two taxa are fundamentally different. *Galium verum* is a species with a wide area of distribution, as it is distributed in the whole area of Eurasia. It is grown from the sea level to ca 1200 m.

Galium ruthenicum is a pontic species, growing in steppic areas, often in rocky places.

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In Europe, *Galium ruthenicum* is distributed in Russia of SE, Ukraine, R. of Moldova [STANKOV & TALIEV, 1949; MAIEVSKII, 1954; POBEDIMOVA, 1958; GEIDEMAN, 1954; ZEROV, 1965].

In România, *Galium ruthenicum* has been identified in Dobrudja, Tulcea county, on a stony hill, ca 2 Km North of Făgărașul Nou village.

Accompanying species:

Achillea leptophylla,
Allium guttatum,
Cleistogenes bulgarica,
Hieracium echioides subsp. *procerum*,
Moehringia grisebachii (on rocks, only)
Onobrychis arenaria,
Seseli pallassii,
Stachys angustifolia,
Veronica spicata subsp. *barrieleri*.

Voucher specimens were deposited in the Herbarium BUAG, sheet no. 23947.

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Fig. 1. *Galium ruthenicum* Willd. (original)