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## Two hybrids of *Verbascum* (*Scrophulariaceae*) from Rumania

### Abstract

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The hybrid *Verbascum*  $\times$ angulosum (*V. speciosum*  $\times$  *V. nigrum*), previously known but omitted from recent literature, and a new hybrid *V.*  $\times$ decalvans nothosubsp. *lotrulense* (*V. glabratum* subsp. *brandzae*  $\times$  *V. nigrum*) are reported from the territory of Rumania.

In his *Verbascum* treatment for the national Flora of Rumania, Ghişa (1960) includes no less than 25 different interspecific hybrids. The two following, which I had the opportunity to observe and collect in that country, are not among them.

***Verbascum*  $\times$ angulosum** Teyber (*V. speciosum* Schrad.  $\times$  *V. nigrum* L.).

The hybrid *Verbascum speciosum*  $\times$  *V. nigrum* was already reported from the territory of Rumania by Focke (1881), from a locality at Orşova, apparently based on a specimen or communication by Borbás. In recent Rumanian Floras (Ghişa 1960, Beldie 1979), however, its occurrence has been ignored. In 1987, I found the same hybrid in two places in the Cerna River valley, viz., not far from the mouth of the “Cheile Taşnei” defile, and about the mouth of the “Cheile Corcoaia” defile near the village of Cerna-Sat. Both localities lie in the area (judeţul) of Caraş-Severin, that is, not far from Borbás’s earlier locality. The hybrid is likely to be fairly abundant in that area, in places where its parental species grow side by side.

The hybrid was validly named on the basis of a finding in Lower Austria (Mayerling bei Baden: Teyber 1901). It has also been reported from Hungary by Soó (1968), without exact locality.

In general appearance *Verbascum*  $\times$ angulosum resembles *V. speciosum*, but in the purple colour of the staminal hairs and the petiolate basal leaves it is closer to *V. nigrum*. The colour of its flowers is intermediate between the pale yellow of *V. speciosum* and the orange yellow of *V. nigrum*, and so is the indumentum of the plants (between the densely pubescent *V. speciosum* and the sparsely hairy *V. nigrum*). My specimens from both localities are deposited in the herbarium of BRNM.



*Verbascum* ×*decalvans* nothosubsp. *lotrulense* Sutorý, **hybr. nova** (*V. glabratum* subsp. *brandzae* (Franch. ex D. Brândză) Murb. × *V. nigrum* L.) – Typus: Romania, județul Vâlcea, prope viam publicam in valle fluvii “Lotru”, 2 km a pago Salistea orientem versus, 550 m s.m., 3 Jun 1986, K. Sutorý (BRNM No. 391981). – Fig. 1.

Glabritie partium superiorum et inflorescentiis ramosis laxioribusque ad *Verbascum glabratum* subsp. *brandzae* vergens. Pili ramosi nonnisi ad basim capsularum frequentiores. Characteres notabiles caeteri (longitudo bractearum, longitudo et forma sepalorum) *V. nigri*. Capsulae imperfecte evolutae.

In their glabrous upper parts and branched, sparsely flowered inflorescences, the plants resemble *Verbascum glabratum* subsp. *brandzae*; branched hairs occur but rarely in the inflorescences, only in the lower part of capsules are they more frequent. In other significant characters, such as the length of the bracts and the length and shape of the calyx, they resemble *V. nigrum*. The capsules do not develop. I found this hybrid among its parents near a road in the Lotru River valley, 2 km east of the village of Salistea, in the județul of Vâlcea.

The hybrid between *Verbascum glabratum* Friv. subsp. *glabratum* and *V. nigrum* was already described and named by Borbás (1885) under the name *V. ×decalvans*. In the protologue, Borbás stated the locality as “in alveo Taja” and mentioned Barth’s exsiccate “Fl. Transsilv. exicc. No. 17”, on which specimen the original description was obviously based. I have not seen that type specimen, nor has Murbeck (1933) included it, among specimens examined, in his *Monograph*. It is likely to be kept in Schur’s herbarium now in Lvov (LW), Ukraine, but the staff of that institution unfortunately failed to trace it. That the parentage of Schur’s hybrid is the one given above is indicated by the distribution of the two relevant subspecies of *V. glabratum*, as given by Ghișa (1960). In Ghișa’s treatment, plants from the locality referred to by Borbás in the protologue of *V. ×decalvans* are included in *V. glabratum* subsp. *glabratum*.

The occurrence of a hybrid between *Verbascum glabratum* and *V. nigrum* in Rumania, though again not acknowledged by the relevant national Floras, can also be indirectly deduced from Jávorka’s (1924-1925) Flora of Hungary. While, like other hybrids, it is there reported without a stated locality, the fact is that, within the former Hungarian Monarchy, *V. glabratum* (with both subspecies) occurs exclusively in areas that today are part of Rumania.

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