

Čavdar Gusev

***Helichrysum plicatum* (Asteraceae) – a new species for the Bulgarian flora**

Abstract

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Three specimens from near the S.W. Bulgarian border, formerly misidentified as "*Helichrysum arenarium*", belong to *H. plicatum* which had not so far been recorded from Bulgaria.

Some plants collected in 1991 on Mt Kamenica, E. of Dolno selo, originally misidentified as *Helichrysum arenarium* (L.) Moench subsp. *arenarium*, proved upon revision to belong to *H. plicatum* DC. This is a new addition to the flora of Bulgaria, since the species has never before been mentioned from that country (Hayek 1931, Stojanov & al. 1967, Clapham 1976, Kuzmanov 1984). Specimens of "*H. arenarium*" kept in SO, collected by E. Ančev in 1939 on the same mountain and by Jordanov in 1966 on Mt Osogovska, also belong to *H. plicatum* and confirm its occurrence in W. Bulgaria.

Under Bulgaria's unified national system of phytochorology (Kožuharov & al. 1983) *Helichrysum plicatum* bears the No. 3850.16135. Its distribution in the country is shown on Fig. 1. Details of Bulgarian specimens are as follows.

***Helichrysum plicatum* DC., Prodr. 6: 183. 1838.**

Kjustendil distr., Znepole region: Mt Kamenica, near the national border E. of the village Dolno selo, c. 900 m a.s.l., grassy places in a *Pinus sylvestris* grove, 23 Jul 1991, Gussev & Kuzmanov (SOM No. 150574, in flower); Kjustendil distr.: near the village Cărven dol, place named "Gradinite", sunny slope, 1939, E. Ančev (SO No. 74211, in flower); Kjustendil distr., W. border mountains: Mt Osogovska, near the village Gorno Rakovo, c. 1000 m a.s.l., grassy places on a steep, rocky siliceous slope, 23 Sep 1966, Jordanov (SO No. 74171, in flower and fruit).

Helichrysum plicatum is a perennial herbaceous plant that belongs to *H.* sect. *Helichrysum* (Clapham 1976). It can be distinguished from *H. arenarium* (L.) Moench, widespread in the country, by its densely glandular stem and leaves. *H. plicatum* has a disjunct area, occurring in Asia Minor, the Caucasus, Iran, N. Iraq (Davis & Kupicha 1975, Šreter

& al. 1977, Ščijan 1986) and, on the Balkan Peninsula, in Greece (Georgiadou 1991), Albania (Demiri 1983), and the F.Y.R. Makedonija (Bornmüller 1928: 84, Stojanov 1928). The records of this taxon from Bulgaria extend in a south-eastward direction the known range of the species on the Balkan Peninsula.

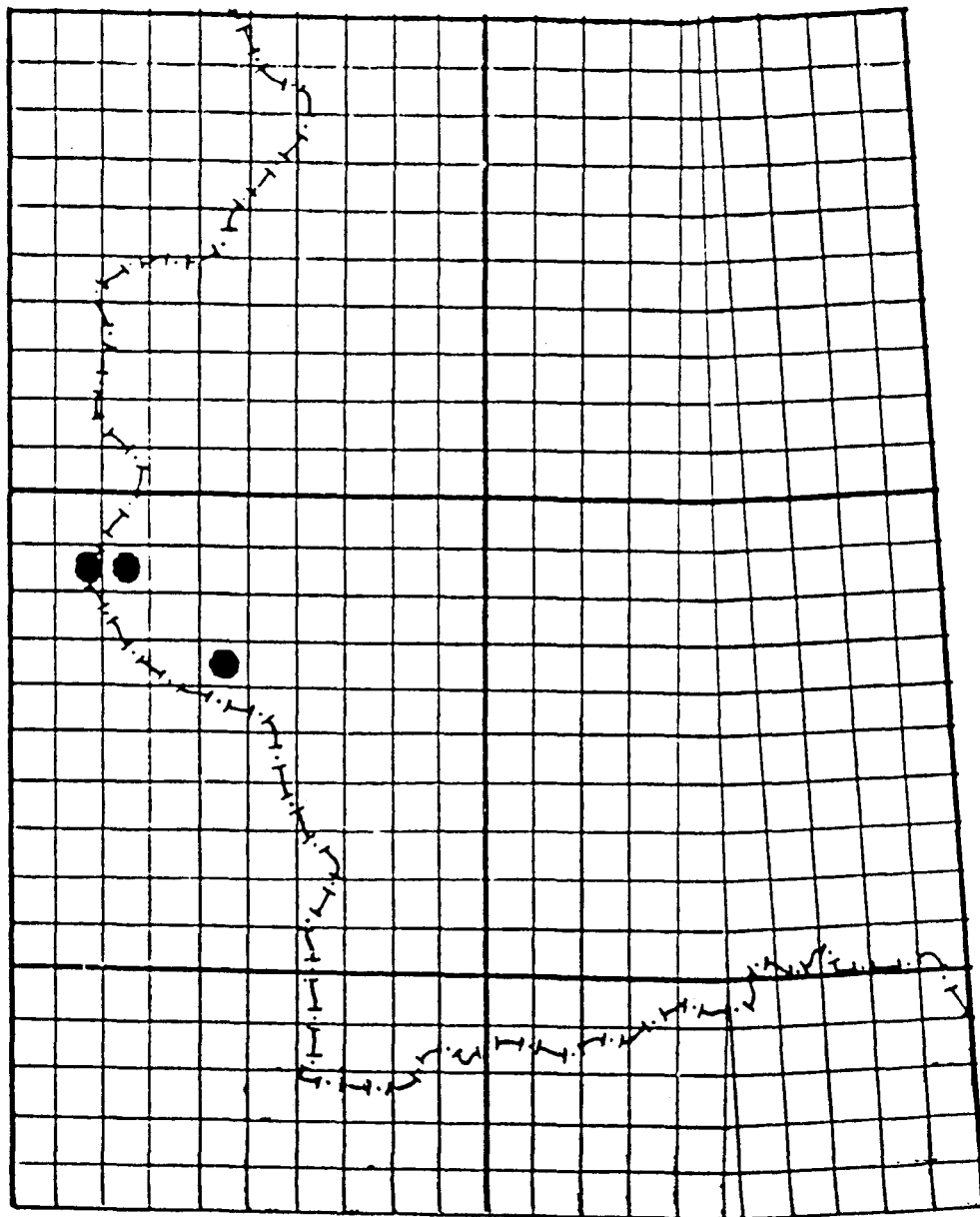


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Helichrysum plicatum* in Bulgaria, mapped in a 10 km × 10 km grid of UTM co-ordinates.

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Address of the author:

Dr Čavdar V. Gusev, Institute of Botany, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Akad. G. Bončev Str. 23, BG-1113 Sofija, Bulgaria.