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Original scientific paper

STUDY ON *HIERACIUM* S. STR. (ASTERACEAE) IN NORTH MACEDONIA, II.

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The author's continued study of *Hieracium* s. str. in North Macedonia has provided new insights into the diversity, chorology, and taxonomic status of certain representatives. A new combination and status are proposed: *Hieracium korabense* (O. Behr & al.) Teofilovski comb. & stat. nov. Two species are reported for the first time in the country: *Hieracium argillaceum* (Radika River basin) and *H. onosmoides* (Probištip). The latter is also newly recorded for the entire Balkan Peninsula. The Macedonian endemic *H. korabense*, previously known only from its type locality, Korab Mt., has been rediscovered there nearly nine decades after its description and newly recorded in the Šar Mountains. Corrections and additions to its original description as a subspecies of *H. sparsum* are presented. The Balkan endemic *H. macedonicum*, previously reliably recorded only from its type locality, Pelister (Baba Mt.), is now reported from Osogovo Mt., Vlaina Mt., Nidže Mt., and several new locations in Baba Mt. *H. pellense*, considered endemic to the Greek and Macedonian parts of Nidže Mt., is newly recorded in Baba Mt. and Galičica Mt. Photographs of herbarium specimens and distribution maps for North Macedonia or general regions are provided for each treated species.

Keywords: *Hieracium* s. str., species, distribution, morphology, North Macedonia

INTRODUCTION

Hieracium s. str. (Asteraceae) is renowned for its extraordinary diversity, with over 10,000 taxa described to date. Historical hybridization, coupled with frequent asexual reproduction stabilizing morphotypes, is considered the primary driver of this diversity and the associated taxonomic challenges. Disagreements among taxonomists regarding classification approaches further complicate its study. These issues contribute to the genus remaining understudied in several regions, including North Macedonia. Approximately 70 species and over 100 subspecies have been mentioned in the literature for this country. The most comprehensive data can be found in the monographs of K. H. Zahn [1–3] and collaborative works by O. Behr and E. Behr [4, 5], while recent findings have been published primarily by the author [6–10].

Following the publication of "Study on *Hieracium* s. str. in North Macedonia, I" [10], research on the genus has continued into 2024, com-

binning fieldwork and laboratory analysis. Field studies were conducted in Baba Mt., Bistra Mt., Korab Mt., and the Šar Mountains. This second continuation updates knowledge of the genus in North Macedonia and beyond, presenting new chorological data for five rare species, some newly recorded for the country or the entire Balkan Peninsula. Additionally, one taxon originally described as a subspecies is elevated to species rank.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Representative plants were collected and photographed. They were labeled with information regarding the locations, habitats, and populations, herbarized, and stored in the author's herbarium. Identification was performed according to the treatments of Boissier [11], Zahn [1–3], Behr et al. [4], and Gottschlich & Dunkel [12]. Scans of herbarium specimens from type and other collections of some relevant taxa stored in various herbaria worldwide were used for comparison. All the ex-

amined herbarium collections originate from North Macedonia and were collected and identified by the author of this article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

***Hieracium argillaceum* Jord., Jard. Bot. Grenoble, Cat. Graines 1849: 17. 1849 (Figure 1)**

≡ *H. vulgatum* subsp. *argillaceum* (Jord.) Sudre, Hierac. Centre France: 54. 1902 ≡ *H. lachenalii* subsp. *argillaceum* (Jord.) Zahn, in Hegi, Ill. Fl. Mitt. Eur. 6: 1280. 1929

Specimens examined:

- Korab Mt., Radika River gorge, sparse forest with *Ostrya carpinifolia* and *Fagus sylvatica*, 1030 m, 41.750997°N, 20.674477°E, 12.7.2023, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski;
- Korab Mt., Radika River basin, above Strezimir, near forest road, 41.802901°N, 20.615051°E, 8.8.2023, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski;
- Šar Mts., Radika River basin, Adžina Reka, near forest road in *Picea abies* forest, 1555–1570 m, 41.821684°N, 20.666613°E, 26.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.

These are the first records of this species in North Macedonia. Its distribution range covers much of central, and parts of western, southern, and southeastern Europe, from Spain to Ukraine, and from Germany and Poland to Italy and Bulgaria. Among the Balkan countries, it has not yet been recorded in Montenegro, Albania, Greece, and the European part of Turkey [13]. *H. argillaceum* belongs to the *H. lachenalii* aggregate, and some authors consider it a subspecies of *H. lachenalii* Suter [2, 13]. In North Macedonia, *H. lachenalii* s.l. was reported from Jakupica Mt. [10]. Gottschlich & al. [14] lectotypified *H. argillaceum* [“de Montrabloud (Ain), cult. 1849“, leg. et det. A. Jordan sub: *Hieracium argillaceum*, LY-Hb.Jordan.] and provided photographs of it.

The following combination of morphological characteristics of the examined plants is crucial for distinguishing them from other representatives of the *H. lachenalii* aggregate: leaves grass-green, not tinged with purple below, distinctly dentate, with abundant long simple hairs on midrib adaxially and pedicel; cauline leaves 3–5, broadly ovate-lanceolate; involucre lacking simple hairs; and styles yellow.

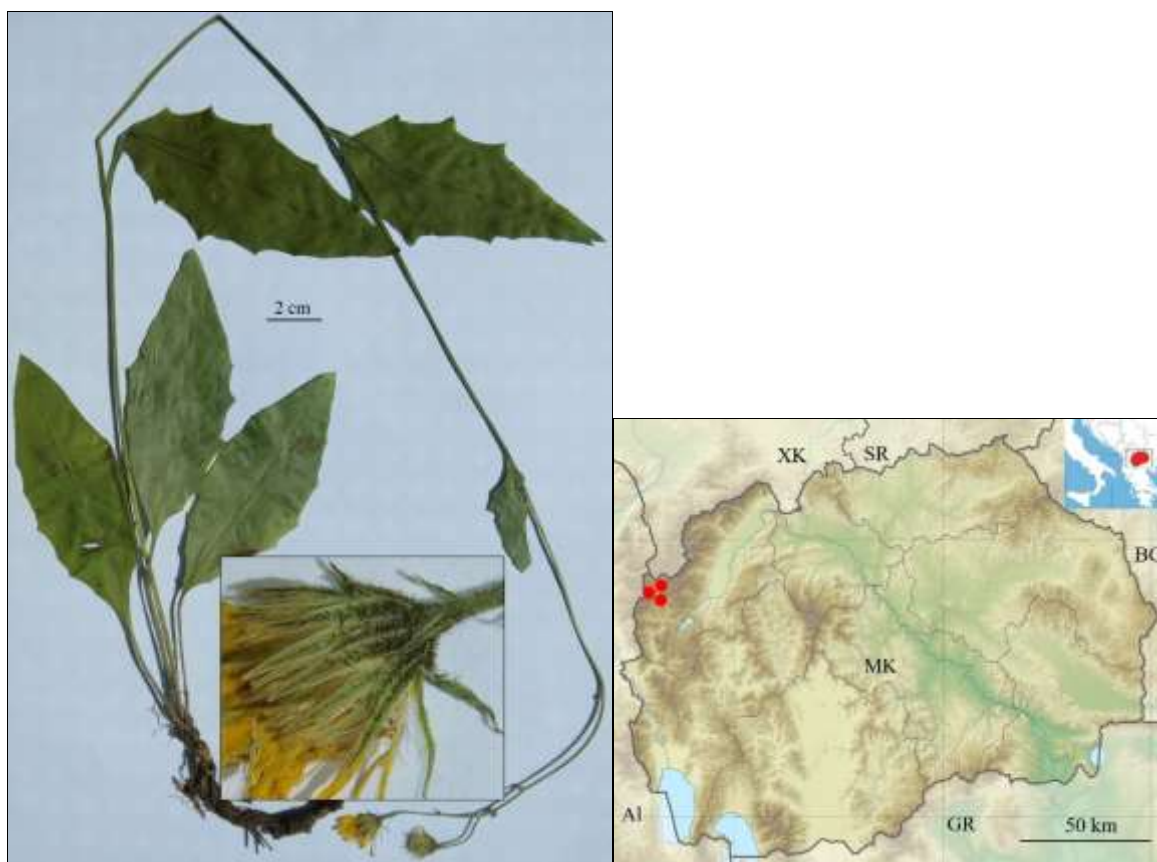


Figure 1. *Hieracium argillaceum* Jord. A. Herbarium specimen with reduced synflorescence collected in Radika River gorge; B. Distribution in North Macedonia.

***Hieracium korabense* (O. Behr & al.) Teofilovski, comb. & stat. nov. (Figure 2)**

≡ *H. sparsum* subsp. *korabense* O. Behr & al. in Glasn. Skopsk. Naučn. Društva 18: 64. 1937 [basinonym]

Type [designated on herbarium sheet (single specimen) by G. Gotschlich, 1991, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *korabense* O. & E. Behr & Zahn]: *Hieracium sparsum* Friv. ssp. *korabense* Behr et Zahn, Macedonia: M. Korab, 1934, E. Behr. (B 10 1154342, barcoded; image available at <https://www.jacq.org/detail.php?ID=1721113>, accessed 21.11.2024).

Specimens examined:

- Korab Mt., road to Kobilino Pole, grassy place and road excavation, 1844 m, 41.796129°N, 20.613010°E, 21.7.2023 & 7.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski, 8.8.2023, leg. A. Teofilovski & Z. Nikolov, det. A. Teofilovski;
- Šar Mts., Ceripašina, acidophilic heaths, 2202 m, 42.019841°N, 20.857686°E, 25.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.

This Macedonian endemic of *Hieracium* sect. *Cernua* was originally described from Korab Mt. as a subspecies of *H. sparsum* Friv. [4], without any information on its habitat or specific locali-

ty. Since then, no further data on its distribution have been published. *H. korabense* differs from *H. sparsum* s. str. in many morphological characteristics, including the greater number of ligules and phyllaries, ovate-cylindrical involucre (vs. cylindrical), and the presence of stellate hairs. Therefore, its original taxonomic status is considered unjustifiable, and an elevation to the status of a separate species is newly proposed. *H. korabense* appears to be most similar to *H. wernerii* Szélag, endemic to Bulgarian and Greek parts of the Rhodope Mts. [15, 16].

According to the well-documented collections from Korab Mt. and Šar Mts., the descriptions of *H. korabensis* given in the protologue and Zahn's monograph [3, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *korabense*] should be corrected and supplemented at least in the following points: stem height 20–70 cm, branches 1–9, capitula up to 25 (30), basal leaves (0)2–4, green or withered at anthesis, stellate hairs descend almost to the basal part of the stem and lower cauline leaves, at least middle cauline leaves ± semiamplexicaul, peduncles with microglands, phyllaries usually with solitary to few stellate hairs, styles darkish, and achenes brown.



Figure 2. *Hieracium korabense* (O. Behr & al.) Teofilovski. A. Plants in natural habitat, Korab Mt. (photo. A. Teofilovski, 21.7.2023); B. General distribution, dots – new localities, ring – locality from literature (type locality).

Hieracium macedonicum Boiss. & Orph. in Boissier, *Fl. Orient.* 3: 872. 1875 (**Figure 3**)
 ≡ *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum* (Boiss. & Orph.) Zahn in Engler, *Pflanzenr.* 79: 1022. 1922

Specimens examined:

- Baba Mt., Kopanki, sparse *Pinus peuce* forest, 1650–1670 m, 41.032058°N, 21.218302°E, 22.7.2022, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., path toward Jorgov Kamen, sparse *Pinus peuce* forest, 1728 m, 28.7.2024, leg. A. Teofilovski & Z. Nikolov, det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., road to mountain hut Široka, *Pinus peuce* forest, 1632 m, 41.025255°N, 21.180734°E, 10.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., Ski Centar Streževo, 1465 m, 40.977550°N, 21.254715°E, 24.7.2022, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., Sapundžica, acidophilic heaths, 1885 m, 40.956430°N, 21.215341°E, 31.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., Sapundžica, forest margins, 1479 m, 16.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Nidže Mt., Konculov Breg, shrubby place, 1720 m, 41.043610°N, 21.881109°E, 28.7.2010, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Nidže Mt., Suvi Dol, *Pinus sylvestris* forest, 1840 m, 40.995820°N, 21.810274°E, 24.7.2010, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Osogovo Mt., Probištipska River valley, 978 m, 42.046770°N, 22.161160°E, 25.6.2017, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Osogovo Mt., Ratkovica village, rocky places, 1475 m, 42.017248°N, 22.337409°E, 6.7.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Osogovo Mt., Ratkova Skala, rocks, stony places, oak forest, 1090–1140 m, 42.007068°N, 22.308478°E, 13.6.2021, 7.7.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Osogovo Mt., Polaki, road excavation, 1390 m, 42.007986°N, 22.340006°E, 13.7.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Osogovo Mt., Mrtvica, forest roadside, 1580 m, 42.097059°N, 22.412441°E, 6.7.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Vlaina Mt., *Pinus sylvestris* forest, 1700 m, 41.784695°N, 22.959731°E, 4.8.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.

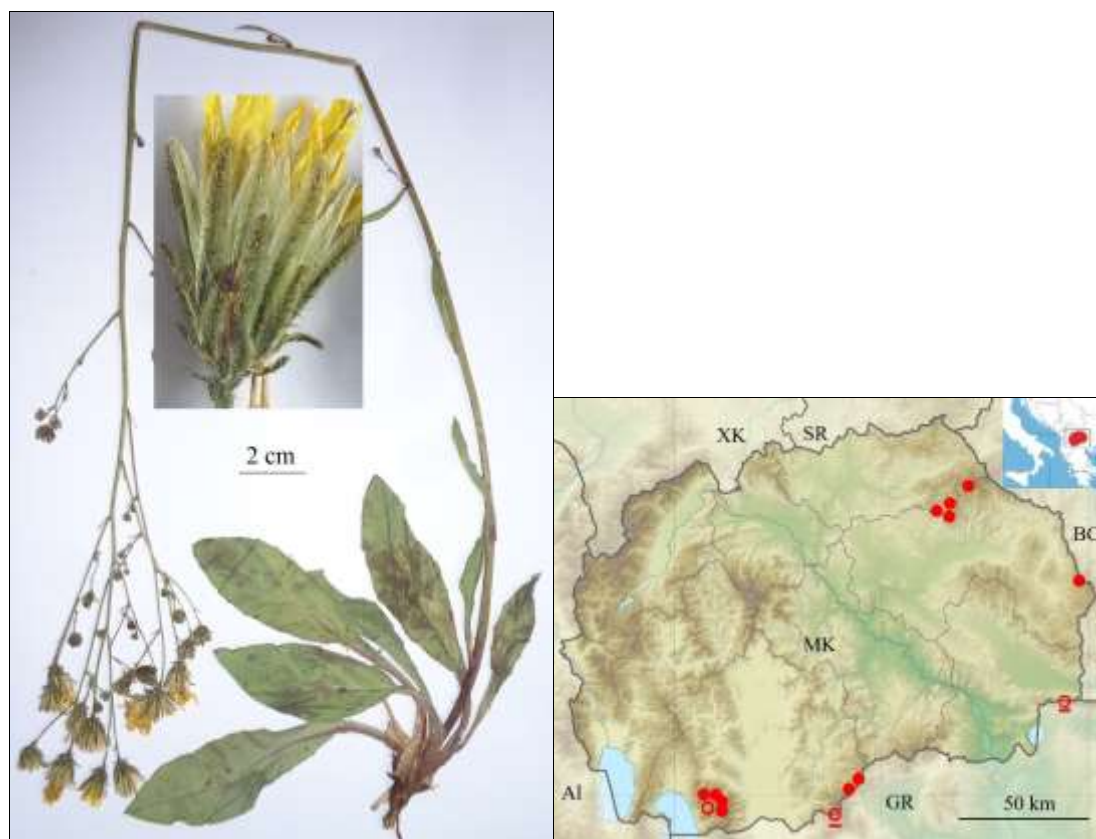


Figure 3. *Hieracium macedonicum* Boiss. & Orph. A. Herbarium specimen collected near Ratkovica village, Osogovo Mt.; B. Distribution in North Macedonia, dots – new localities, ring – locality from literature (type locality), underlined rings – localities from literature not precisely assigned to specific country.

Hieracium macedonicum is a South Balkan endemic species originally described by Boissier [11] from Pelister (Baba Mt., North Macedonia), based on a collection by Th. Orphanideus. A scan of the specimen from the type collection, labeled with the locality "Peristeri, Macedonia Superiores alt. 5500", is preserved at the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève (G00748273) and is available online at [Geneva Herbarium](#).

Zahn [1, 2] erroneously cited the peak of Peristeri in the Pindus Mt. (Greece) as the type locality of *H. macedonicum*, which has led to ongoing confusion in the Euro+MedPlant Base, where the presence of this species in North Macedonia is even questioned [14, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum*].

According to the literature, *H. macedonicum* is distributed in Greece, North Macedonia, and Kosovo (1, 3, 13, 17–19). However, most reports regarding North Macedonia and Greece are imprecise, as earlier authors used the term "Macedonia" in its historical context, encompassing northern Greece as well. As a result, some localities cannot be definitively assigned to a specific country. The only clear reference to *H. macedonicum* in North Macedonia found in the literature is its type locality (Pelister, Baba Mt.).

Reported Localities:

- Macedonia: "Tschaïrli-Dagh" [1, 3]. This locality may refer to Nidže Mt., situated in the border region between North Macedonia and Greece.
- Epirus and Macedonia [17, as *H. sparsum* var. *macedonicum* Zahn]. These reports are probably based on Zahn's erroneous data for Pindus Mt. (Greece) and "Tschaïrli-Dagh" [1].
- Macedonia, Belasica Mt., east of Visoka Čuka, 1600 m [3, 18, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum*]. This locality is most likely in Greece, near the border with North Macedonia.
- Macedonia, Kajmakčalan Mt., 2000 m [3, sub *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum*]. The peak of Kajmakčalan (Nidže Mt.) lies on the present-day border between North Macedonia and Greece.
- Kosovo, Đaravica Mt. [3, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum* var. *cacumenicolum* Rech. fil. & Zahn].
- Northcentral and Northeastern floristic regions of Greece [19, as *H. sparsum* subsp.

macedonicum]. These data likely rely on literature referencing Macedonia and Epirus.

- "North Macedonia (presence questionable), Serbia with Kosovo, Greece" [13, as *H. sparsum* subsp. *macedonicum*].

In North Macedonia, *H. macedonicum* occurs in the mountains of the southern and eastern regions, at elevations ranging from 978 to 1885 m. It has been observed almost exclusively on siliceous substrates, except at Suvi Dol on Nidže Mt., where it occurs on limestone.

***Hieracium onosmoides* Fr. in *Nova Acta Regiae Soc. Sci. Upsal.* 14: 102. 1848 (Figure 4)**

Specimens examined:

- Probištip, Lesnovo Caves, dry grassy and shrubby place, silicate substrate, 837 m, 42.007900°N, 22.225695°E, 4.7.2023 & 24.6.2021, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Probištip, near Probištipska River, dry shrubby place, silicate substrate, 750 m, 42.034221°N, 22.159902°E, 24.6.2017, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.

This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in North Macedonia and the entire Balkan Peninsula. Its distribution spans much of the western half of Europe, including Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, France, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, and Hungary [1, 2, 13]. In Italy, *H. onosmoides* is found in the northwestern regions [20]. The closest previously known localities to those in North Macedonia are in Hungary, approximately 500 km to the north-northwest.

Zahn considered the origin of *H. onosmoides* to be hybridogenic, resulting from hybridization between *H. schmidtii* Tausch and *H. lachenalii* Suter [2, as *H. pallidum* > *H. lachenalii*], both of which are known to occur in North Macedonia and neighboring countries [2, 10]. The indumentum of stiff, simple hairs on the leaves and the lower part of the stem in plants from the two populations recorded near Probištip confirms their close relationship to *H. schmidtii*. However, the taller stems [(40) 60–70 (80) cm vs. 10–40 cm] and the more numerous cauline leaves (2–4 vs. 1–3) suggest the influence of *H. lachenalii*.

H. onosmoides is a variable species in which Zahn recognized 20 subspecies [2]. The examined specimens are morphologically closely related to *H. onosmoides* subsp. *danubiale* (Borb.) Zahn, which is characterized by shorter simple hairs and large leaves, a trait particularly pronounced in plants collected near Lesnovo Caves.

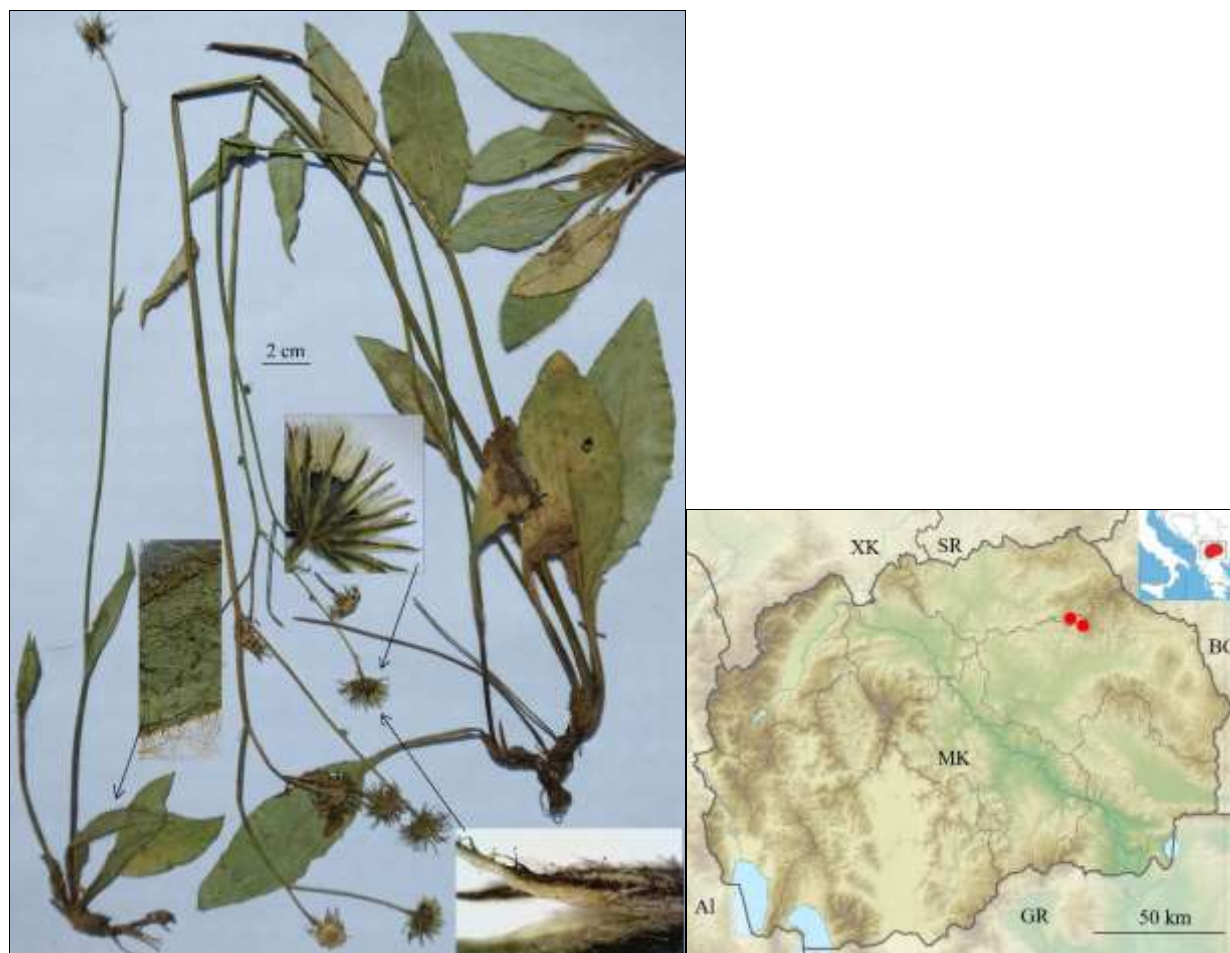


Figure 4. *Hieracium onosmoides* Fr. A. Herbarium specimens collected near Probištipska River; B. Distribution in North Macedonia

***Hieracium pellense* Gottschl. & Dunkel in *Stapfia* 111: 11. 2019 (Figure 5)**

Specimens examined:

- Galičica Mt., southwest of Ilino village, road-side in the zone of beech forest, silicate substrate, 1300 m, 41.142967°N, 20.943415°E, 22.6.2010, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., Ski Center Nižepole, excavation site, silicate substrate, 1410 m, 40.979485°N, 21.255603°E, 24.7.2022, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., path between Kopanki and Jorgov Kamen, *Pinus peuce* forest, silicate substrate, 1650–1730 m, 22.7.2022, 16.7.2023, 31.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., right side of Sapundžica River, forest margins, acidophilic heaths, silicate substrate, 1430–1874 m, 23.7.2022 & 15.7.2023, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.
- Baba Mt., road to Široka, forest margins, silicate substrate, 1636 m, 41.023533°N,

21.178863°E, 10.7.2024, leg. & det. A. Teofilovski.

This species was recently described from the Greek part of Nidže Mt. [12] and was shortly thereafter reported from the Macedonian part of the same mountain [8]. The authors of the species considered it hybridogenic in origin, illustrating its lineage with the morphological formula *H. oroglaucum* × *H. murorum* [12].

During fieldwork on Baba Mt., *H. pellense* was frequently observed at elevations between 1400 and 2000 m. In contrast, on Galičica Mt., it is a rare species, found only near Ilino village. The plants from Galičica Mt. differ from those collected in Nidže Mt. and Baba Mt. by generally having larger leaves and a greater number of cauline leaves [(2)3–4 vs. 1–3].

In Nidže Mt., this species is known to occur exclusively on limestone [8, 13], whereas all recorded populations in Baba Mt. and Galičica Mt. grow on siliceous geological substrates.

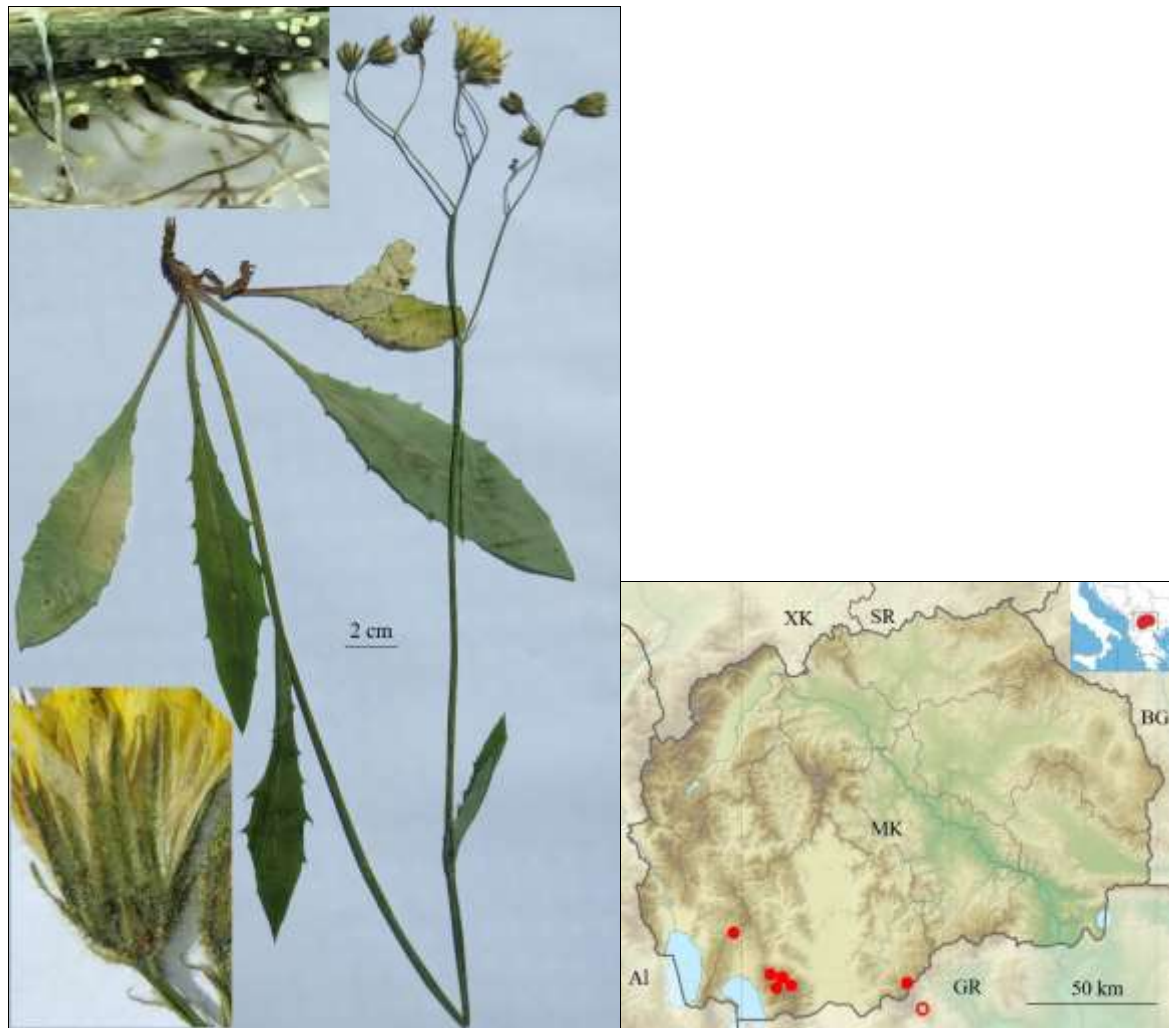


Figure 5. *Hieracium pellense* Gottschl. & Dunkel. A. Herbarium specimen collected between Kopanki and Jorgov Kamen, Baba Mt., detail above – indumentum of involucre bract (yellowish grains – pollen of *Pinus peuce*); B. General distribution, dots – localities based on own herbarium collections, ring – locality from the literature (type locality).

CONCLUSIONS

The first records or new findings of five rare *Hieracium* s. str. species in North Macedonia (and the Balkan Peninsula) are presented, including a newly proposed species rank for one of them:

- *Hieracium onosmoides* Fr. is reported for the first time in both North Macedonia and the entire Balkan Peninsula, from two localities near Probištip.
- *H. argillaceum* Jord. is recorded for the first time in North Macedonia, from three localities in the basin of the Radika River.
- *H. korabense* (O. Behr & al.) Teofilovski, comb. & stat. nov., was rediscovered after 87 years at its type locality, Korab Mt., and newly found in the Šar Mountains. Corrections and supplements to its previous descriptions are suggested.

- The Balkan endemic *H. macedonicum* Boiss. & Orph., previously reliably known in North Macedonia only from its type locality on Baba Mt. (Pelister), has been newly recorded in several localities within this mountain, as well as on Osogovo Mt., Vlaina Mt., and Nidže Mt.
- *H. pellense* Gottschl. & Dunkel, known as endemic to Nidže Mt. in both the Macedonian and Greek parts, has been newly recorded on Baba Mt. and Galičica Mt.

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СТУДИЈА НА *HIERACIUM* S. STR. (ASTERACEAE) ВО СЕВЕРНА МАКЕДОНИЈА, II.

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Јавно претпријатие Национални шуми, Скопје, РС Македонија

Натамошните проучувања на родот *Hieracium* s. str. во Северна Македонија од страна на авторот на овој труд, резултираа со нови податоци за разновидноста, распространувањето и таксономскиот статус на некои негови преставници. Предложена е една нова комбинација и статус – *Hieracium korabense* (O. Behr & al.) Teofilovski comb. & stat. nov. Следните два вида се наведуваат за прв пат во флората на Македонија: *Hieracium argillaceum* (за сливот на реката Радика) и *Hieracium onosmoides* (за околината на Пробиштип), од кои вториот вид е нов и за Балканскиот Полуостров. Македонскиот ендемит *Hieracium korabense*, кој беше познат само за класичниот локалитет (планината Кораб), е повторно откриен на оваа планина речиси 90 години по неговото опишување а дополнително е пронајден и на Шар Планина. Презентирани се поправки и дополнувања на неговиот оригинален опис како подвид на *Hieracium sparsum*. Балканскиот ендемит *Hieracium macedonicum*, со сигурност е познат само за класичниот локалитет (Пелистер), така што освен на неколку нови локалитети на планината Баба, регистриран е и на планините Осогово, Влаина и Нице. *Hieracium pellense*, кој се сметаше за ендемит на грчките и македонските падини на планината Нице, е документиран на планините Баба и Галичица. Фотографија на хербариумски или жив примерок како и карта на распространување во Северна Македонија или карта на целосно распространување, се презентирани за секој од обработените видови.

Клучни зборови: *Hieracium* s. str.; вид; распространување; морфологија; Северна Македонија