Observations on Primula elatior in the High Sudeten Mts.

MILOSLAV KOVANDA

Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Institute of Botany, 252 43 Průhonice, Czech Republic

KOVANDA M. (1997): Observations on *Primula elatior* in the High Sudeten Mts. – Thaiszia - J. Bot. 7: 17-28. – ISSN 1210-0420.

ABSTRACT: The Western and Eastern Sudeten are known to differ considerably in the composition of their floras and striking dissimilarities can also be seen in the behaviour of some species that are common to both the mountain ranges. *Primula elatior* (L.) Hill, represented by subsp. *elatior* and subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) Soo growing mixed together and intergrading with each other, is widespread and variable in the Eastern Sudeten but has failed to produce an endemic taxon, even though two of the populations are spatially isolated. On the other hand, in the Western Sudeten, *P. elatior* (L.) Hill subsp. *elatior* is only locally frequent but has given rise to an endemic taxon, var. *corcontica* DOMIN. Possible causes of this unusual situation are briefly considered. Based on an analysis of morphological characters and taking into account its allopatric distribution, a taxonomic reassessment in the rank of subspecies is proposed for var. *corcontica* DOMIN. Observations are also made on geographical distribution, ecology, phenology and biology.

KEYWORDS: *Primula elatior*, Sudeten Mts., isolating mechanisms, endemism, morphology, geographical distribution.

Introduction

When comparing the flora of the Western Sudeten (Krkonoše Mts.) and Eastern Sudeten (Králický Sněžník Mts., Hrubý Jeseník Mts.), one is struck by the many conspicuous differences in the composition of their floras that are difficult to account for rationally. Several attempts have been made to compile a list of plants that differentiate between the West and East (see e.g. FIEK 1881, SCHUSTLER 1918, DOMIN 1924, ŠMARDA 1951, JENÍK 1961).

One may wonder for instance why Agrostis rupestris ALL., Androsace obtusifolia ALL., Arabis alpina L., Baeothryon caespitosum (L.) A. DIETR. subsp. austriacum (PALLA) Á. et D. LÖVE, Carex magellanica LAM., Comarum palustre L., Cryptogramma crispa (L.) R. Br. ex Hooker, Festuca versicolor Tausch, Galium harcynicum WEIGEL, Gentiana asclepiadea L., Geum montanum L., Gnaphalium supinum L., Linnaea borealis L., Luzula spicata (L.) DC., Myosotis alpestris F. W. SCHMIDT, Pedicularis sudetica WILLD., Pinus mugo TURRA subsp. mugo, Poa laxa HAENKE, Primula minima L., Pulsatilla scherfelii (ULLEP.) SKALICKÝ, Rubus chamaemorus L., Saxifraga moschata WULFEN subsp. basaltica BR.-BL., S. nivalis L., S. oppositifolia L., or Veronica bellidioides L. occur, albeit some of them extremely rarely, in the Krkonoše Mts. but are absent from the Eastern Sudeten Mts., or, vice versa, why Agrostis alpina SCOP., Aster alpinus L., Campanula barbata L., Cardamine trifolia L., Carex acutiformis EHRH., C. montana L., Carlina vulgaris L. subsp. stricta (ROUY) DOMIN, Cerastium fontanum BAUMG., Conioselinum tataricum HOFFM., Crepis sibirica L.. Dianthus carthusianorum L. s.l., Gentiana punctata L., G. verna L., Helianthemum nummularium (L.) MILL. subsp. grandiflorum (SCOP.) SCHINZ et THELL., Helictotrichon planiculme (SCHRAD.) PILGER, Hieracium villosum JACQ., Laserpitium archangelica WULF., Ligusticum mutellina (L.) CRANTZ, Plantago atrata HOPPE s.l., Poa alpina L., Prunella grandiflora (L.) SCHOLLER, Pteridium aquilinum (L.) KUHN, Salix hastata L., Saxifraga paniculata MILL., Scrophularia scopolii HOPPE or Valeriana tripteris L. are present in the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. but are missing from the Krkonoše Mts.

Both the Western and Eastern Sudeten have a similar geological past and a similar florogenesis. Both had their own glaciers, with the Nordic glacier ending not far from their northern foothills. While the Eastern Sudeten saw an influx of plants from the Carpathians during the glacial era, such an event is less likely in the Western Sudeten. Conioselinum tataricum HOFFM., Crepis sibirica L. and Scrophularia scopolii HOPPE apparently stopped in the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. on their way west from the Carpathians but why the basically Alpine Campanula barbata L. colonized S. Norway by way of the Eastern and not Western Sudeten is a mystery. Both the Western and Eastern Sudeten received a number of plants from the North as well as from the Alps and it is not always easy to decide which came from where. Both the Western and Eastern Sudeten are notable for their endemics.

There are no less startling differences in the distribution and frequency of certain plants that occur in both the mountain systems. A good example is *Primula elatior* (L.) HILL, where an interesting taxonomic diversification is accompanied by inequalities in spatial spread (whether sympatric or allopatric), phytogeographical relationships, variation and biology (see Tab. 1).

P. elatior varies widely in terms of leaf shape, length of petiole, hairiness (of leaves, scapes, pedicels and calyx), shape and length of calyx, length of calyx teeth and length and shape of corolla limb. Some characters, most notably the size of the leaves and hairiness, undergo considerable changes during ontogenic development. It is important therefore that to avoid confusion plants in the same stage of development are compared. Variation is largely continuous however and much of the variation trends combine freely with each other.

Tab. I. Differences (other than morphological) between the Western Sudeten and Eastern Sudeten Primula elatior

| | Western Sudeten | Eastern Sudeten |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Taxa represented | elatior, corcontica | elatior, tatrensis |
| Their distribution | Allopatric | Sympatric |
| Occurrence | Locally abundant (elatior) | Frequent (both elatior |
| | Rare and local (corcontica) | and tatrensis) |
| Transitions | Rare | Large scale |
| Endemic taxon | Present | Absent |

Surprisingly, none of the early students of the Sudeten flora said anything particular about *P. elatior*. The first to register it, as a species, were probably WIMMER & GRABOWSKI (1827) who reported *P. elatior* as occurring near what is now the Schronisko pod Łabskim Szczytem Chalet, Polish Karkonosze Mts. WIMMER later (1844) added: "an das Hochgebirge hinaufsteigend ... Kupferberg, Hirschberg bis zu den Schlesischen Bauden hinauf".

Primula elatior in the Eastern Sudeten

In the Eastern Sudeten P. elatior is found scattered throughout both the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. and the Králický Sněžník Mts., forming locally large populations. Taxonomically the plants belong partly to subsp. tatrensis (DOMIN) SOO which extends from the Carpathians and is typically only sparsely hairy and has doubly crenate-dentate to (in the lower part) lobulate leaf blades, and partly to subsp. elatior. The two almost always grow side by side and intergrade on a large scale. Subsp. tatrensis (DOMIN) SOO is prevalent in the Hrubý Jeseník Mts. but is less frequent in the Králický Sněžník Mts. (which are more remote from the Carpathians) where subsp. elatior and the intermediates prevail. Small, spatially isolated topodemes of "pure" subsp. tatrensis (DOMIN) SOÓ occur in the Velká kotlina and Malá kotlina glacial cirques where they extend up to 1320 m (see KOVANDA 1992). While elsewhere in these mountains the plants flower prolifically and produce a lot of viable seed, flowering is of extremely rare occurrence in these particular populations. Even though the glacial cirques are renowned as the scene of speciation processes for a number of plant taxa, no taxonomically deviating race of P. elatior has evolved and no indication of such process can be observed. P. montana OPIZ, described from the Králický Sněžník Mts., is merely a synonym of P. elatior (L.) HILL, based on a specimen collected "unter einer Petasites, welche sich durch äusserst hohe Blattstiele und kolossale Blätter auszeichnet" (see BERCHTOLD & OPIZ 1839).

Primula elatior in the Western Sudeten

The situation in the Western Sudeten (Krkonoše Mts.) is quite different. Here *P. elatior* is locally frequent in the foothills but extends only rarely into the mountains

Tab. 2. List of topodemes sampled

No. Locality

Krkonoše Mts.:

- 1 Herlíkovice, near Vrchlabí, wet meadow near ski-lift, 820 m
- 2 Strážné, near Vrchlabí, spring terrain on road to Šestidomí, 880 m
- 3 Přední Labská, dry meadow near bell tower, 870 m
- 4 Špindlerův Mlýn, meadow near Hromovka house, 870 m
- 5 Svoboda nad Úpou, along a stream SW of town, 620 m
- 6 Hofmannovy boudy, near Janské Lázně, small alder grove, 750 m
- 7 Rýchory Mts., meadow NW of Kraví hora, 660 m
- 8 Pec pod Sněžkou, steep slope opposite bus terminal, 860 m
- 9 Velká Úpa, slope opposite post office, 830 m
- 10 Janovy boudy, near Velká Úpa, spring terrain, 890 m
- 11 Spálený Mlýn, near Dolní Malá Úpa, along a stream, 890 m
- 12 Dolní Malá Úpa, meadow just off the cemetary, 960 m
- 13 Černá Voda, near Pomezní Boudy, spring terrain, 980 m
- 14 Rokytnice nad Jizerou, along a stream at Hoření Domky, 890 m
- 15 Chmelná hůra, near Jilemnice, along road to Roubenka house, 580 m
- 16 Velká kotelná jáma glacial cirque, scree cone, 1200 m

Hrubý Jeseník Mts.:

- 17 Mt. Petrovy kameny, slope above the Ovčárna Chalet, 1350 m
- 18 Velká kotlina glacial cirque, spring terrain in a Betula carpatica growth in the upper part, 1260 m
- 19 Velká kotlina glacial cirque, bottom, 1190 m
- 20 Along the Moravice stream below Velká kotlina glacial cirque, 1150 m
- 21 Along the Moravice stream below Velká Kotlina glacial cirque, 940 m
- 22 Peat bogs at Karlov, 674 m
- 23 Wet meadow at Nová Rudná, 720 m
- 24 Proposed nature reserve at Raná, 760 m
- 25 Malá Morávka, along a stream in the upper part, 680 m

Králický Sněžník Mts.:

- 26 Spring terrain along state boundary between Vlaštovčí skály rocks and Mt. Malý Sněžník, 1350 m
- 27 Along the Morava stream below the Tvarožné díry caves, 840 m

proper. Its populations are taxonomically homogeneous, consisting entirely of subsp. *elatior*. Subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) Soó and intermediates are missing. Elsewhere in these mountains, *P. elatior* is extremely rare and local, occurring only in a few sites between around 1220 and 1400 m. This is an endemic taxon, appropriately named var. *corcontica* DOMIN¹. Unlike subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) Soó in the Eastern Sudeten, it is clear cut in terms of morphology and is fully allopatric in relation to subsp. *elatior* (Tab.1).

¹ "To Askiburgion Oros Korkontoi", name of the Sudeten on Ptolemy's map of Europe (2nd century A.D.).

Characteristic features of var. corcontica DOMIN include:

- (1) The narrowly winged, entire petiole. This proved to be a constant character of all plants examined. It is extremely rare in populations of subsp. *elatior* from other parts of the distribution range and is never in such cases correlated with other characters of var. *corcontica* DOMIN. It is not known to occur in subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) SOÓ.²
- (2) The minutely dentate leaf blade. Again, this is a character of the highest constancy in var. *corcontica* DOMIN. No transitions to leaf blade grossly dentate to lobulate as in subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) SOÓ could be seen.
- (3) The cordate base of the leaf blade. Generally, in *P. elatior*, the shape of the blade is subject to unusual variation even within a given population. In var. *corcontica* DOMIN, the cuneate base, which is of frequent occurrence elsewhere, seems to be entirely missing (see Tab. 2, 3, 4).

Of the other characters mentioned by DOMIN (1930), the following can be used as supplementary: petiole (during florescence) often longer than blade, calyx tubulose-campanulate, divided to 1/3, corolla limb slightly concave, 6.8-7.8(-8.2) mm long. The indumentum of the leaves, scapes and calyces varies considerably from one plant to another and becomes generally sparser as the ontogenic development continues.

The morphological characterization and allopatry in distribution justify treating var. *corcontica* DOMIN as a subspecies:

Primula elatior (L.) HILL subsp. corcontica (DOMIN) KOVANDA, comb. nova

Bas.: Primula elatior HILL var. corcontica DOMIN Věda Přírodní 11: 239, 1930.

The rank of species could perhaps be considered but in view of the immense variation range of the species, such assessment appears inappropriate.

It is interesting to note that DOMIN, who is known to have described new species freely, was extremely restrained in the case of *P. elatior*. He obviously did not attach much importance to his intraspecific taxa, some of which have since been elevated to the rank of subspecies [subsp. *tatrensis* (DOMIN) SOO, subsp. *poloninensis* (DOMIN) DOSTAL] or even species [*P. poloninensis* (DOMIN) FEDOROV], having failed to mention them at all in his Plantarum Čechoslovakiae Enumeratio (DOMIN 1935).

DOMIN described var. *corcontica* on plentiful material gathered by his assistants V. KRAJINA (1905-1993) and P. SILLINGER (1905-1938) at 900 m in the Elbe valley on 18 May 1929 (see DOMIN & KRAJINA, Flora Čechoslovenica exsiccata no. 284; subsp. *elatior* admixed), where KRAJINA had collected it previously at 800 m on 10 May 1929. DOMIN also refers to a herbarium collection made by KRAJINA on the famous outcrop of

² In herbarium material, especially of young plants, the characters of the petiole are often poorly preserved due to the revolute vernation. A typically dentate petiole may then appear as entire.

basalt in the Maly Kocioł Śnieżny, Polish Karkonosze Mts., on 8 July 1928. Surprisingly, neither record has been confirmed by subsequent research. J. ŠOUREK, an acknowledged authority on the Krkonoše flora, does not mention these stations at all in his Flora (ŠOUREK 1969), even though GÖPPERT (1864), FIEK (1881), SCHUSTLER (1918) and LIMPRICHT (1930) listed "P. elatior" as occurring in the latter locality. Another record cited by DOMIN, from near Svoboda nad Úpou ("Vrajt"), is doubtful. It is based on a poor herbarium collection made by an enigmatic collector in April 1902 who signed his name illegibly. (DOMIN quotes himself as the collector.) The material available represents typical subsp. elatior. The locality lies too low (510 m) for subsp. corcontica to occur. All herbarium material documenting these data is deposited in the Herbarium of the Department of Botany, Charles University, Prague (PRC). A fourth locality listed by DOMIN (1930), Mt. Studničná hora, does not appear to have ever been verified, either in herbaria or in literature. The following relatively recent reports of *P. elatior* are probably referable to subsp. corcontica: Luční bouda, 1400 m (PROCHÁZKA & ŠTURSA 1972). Liščí hora, 1360 m and Výrovka, 1355 m (one and three plants, respectively; ŠTEFFAN 1986). It is unclear whether the early reports of *P. elatior* from near Schronisko na Hali Szrenickiej and Schronisko pod Łabskim Szczytem (WIMMER & GRABOWSKI 1827, WIMMER 1844) are referable to var. corcontica or not. PAWŁOWSKA (1963) reports var. corcontica summarily from the Polish part of the mountains without any precise locality.

Herbarium specimens of subsp. corcontica seen

Czech Republic

"montes Krkonoše (Riesengebirge), in pratis montanis in valle rivi Labe supra Vrchlabí, altitudine circa 900 m s.m.", Krajina et Sillinger 1929 PRC (lectotype)

"Labské údolí", Krajina 1929 PRC

"Velká Kotelná jáma" (Kotel, Velký Kotel, Kesselgrund, Grosser Kessel), Cypers 1893 PR, Čelakovský fil. 1907 PR, anon. 1916 PR, Sillinger 1927 PRC, Šourek 1951 PR, Kovanda 1994 PR

Poland

"begraste Felsen über dem Kalkofen in Ober-Schmiedeberg", Schneider 1886 PR

"in valle praerupto Malá Sněžná jáma (Kleine Schneegrube), solo basaltico", Krajina 1928 PRC

At present, subsp. *corcontica* is demonstrably known to occur only in two sites on the E. to S. E. side of Mt. Kotel (Kokrháč), the Malá Kotelná jáma (1350 m) and Velká Kotelná jáma (1220 - 1250 m) glacial cirques in the Czech part of the Krkonoše Mts., not far from the locus classicus (cf. Jeník 1961, Šourek 1969).

In the Velká kotelná jáma glacial cirque, a topodeme of about 60 individuals occurs in a plant community of the alliance *Calamagrostion arundinaceae* on a stabilized vegetated scree cone (granite, c. 40° slope, S. E. facing) associated with *Achillea millefolium* L. subsp. *sudetica* (OPIZ) WEISS, *Alchemilla glabra* NEYGENF., *Aconitum*

callibotryon Reichenb., Allium schoenoprasum L. subsp. sibiricum (L.) Čelak., Anemone narcissiflora L., Arabis sudetica Tausch, Bartsia alpina L., Blechnum spicant (L.) Roth, Bupleurum longifolium L., Botrychium lunaria (L.) Sw., Calamagrostis arundinacea (L.) Roth, Calluna vulgaris (L.) Hull, Daphne mezereum L., Delphinium elatum L., Digitalis grandiflora Mill., Galium boreale L., G. sudeticum Tausch, Gentiana asclepiadea L., Hypericum maculatum Crantz, Leontodon hispidus L. s.l., Lilium martagon L., Myosotis nemorosa Besser, Phyteuma spicatum L., Poa chaixii Vill., Potentilla aurea L., P. erecta (L.) Räuschel, Pulmonaria obscura Dumort., Pulsatilla Scherfelii (Ullep.) Skalický, Thalictrum aquilegiifolium L., Thesium alpinum L., Thymus alpestris Tausch ex A. J. Kerner, Trollius altissimus Crantz, Vaccinium myrtillus L., Viola biflora L., etc. The cone is watered profusely during the thaw but remains dry for most of the growing period, except after heavy showers. Jenik (1961) lists "Primula elatior" in a relevé of the association Bupleuro-Calamagrostidetum arundinaceae (Zlatnik 1928) Jenik 1961 at 1220 m in the same locality.

Subsp. *corcontica* starts to flower very early, when the bottom of the cirque nearby is still occupied by a mass of granulated snow. Together *with Daphne mezereum* L., it is the first plant to flower on the scree cone. The onset of flowering varies greatly depending on the weather, from late May to early June. Usually no flowers open prior to 20 May. A peculiar feature of subsp. *corcontica* is the sparsity of flowering. In the period of study (1980-1996), only 2 to 6 plants (not necessarily the same ones) flowered in any given year. The remaining were surviving as rosettes generating a few new leaves each growing season but no scapes or flowers. Those flowering produced very little or no seed.

The failure of the vast majority of plants of subsp. *corcontica* to flower regularly is apparently caused by adverse environmental conditions. A rosette (only one, in view of the extreme rareness of occurrence) transferred to the experimental plot at Průhonice in 1990 has been producing a scape with an umbel of flowers every year since.

The poor fertility of the plants which manage to flower in the natural habitat can be attributed to the scarcity of pollen vectors in early spring rather than to any intrinsic factors.

It is remarkable that so ill-adapted a race could have evolved, become established and survived to the present day. Perhaps it was more vigorous in the warm Boreal and Atlantic eras and was reduced to its present state by the onset of the cool Subatlantic.

Discussion

It is tempting to speculate why an endemic *Primula* evolved in the Western Sudeten but not in the Eastern Sudeten. The differentiation process has obviously operated with material from different sources and has, of necessity, yielded different effects.

In the Eastern Sudeten, an ancestral *elatior* was superimposed upon and locally absorbed by the alien, vigorous, eastern *tatrensis* (or its evolutionary predecessor) with little propensity to spatial isolation. This is the case in the Velká kotlina and Malá kotlina glacial cirques but, for reasons unknown, it has failed to bring about any perceivable

Tab. 3. Representation (in per cent) of nine characters in the topodemes.

Characters studied

Shape of petiole

- A₁ not distinct from the blade, the latter decurrent
- A₂ distinct from the blade, winged, dentate
- A₃ distinct from the blade,

Margin of leaf blade

- B₁ doubly dentate to lobulate in the lower part
- B₂ dentate to grossly dentate
- B₃ finely dentate

Shape of leaf blade

- C₁ cordate
- C₂ abruptly contracted
- C₃ cuneate

| wingless, ent | ire | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|----------------|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Topodeme | | | | | Charac | ter | | | |
| no. | | | | | | | | | |
| | A_1 | A_2 | A_3 | B_1 | \mathbf{B}_2 | \mathbf{B}_3 | C_1 | C_2 | C_3 |
| 1 | 0 | 88 | 12 | 0 | 90 | 10 | 76 | 24 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | 96 | 4 | . 0 | 100 | 0 | 70 | 20 | 10 |
| 3 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 86 | 14 | 0 |
| 4 | 0 | 92 | 8 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 92 | 4 | 4 |
| 5 | 0 | 90 | 10 | 0 | 92 | 8 | 76 | 14 | 10 |
| 6 | 0 | 94 | 6 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 68 | 8 | 24 |
| 7 | 0 | 92 | 8 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 48 | 40 | 12 |
| 8 | 0 | 90 | 10 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 84 | 16 | 0 |
| 9 | 0 | 98 | 2 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 44 | 24 | 32 |
| 10 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 36 | 56 | 8 |
| 11 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 48 | 36 | 16 |
| 12 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 52 | 16 | 32 |
| 13 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 72 | 24 | 4 |
| 14 | 0 | 92 | 8 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 60 | 24 | 16 |
| 15 | 0 | 90 | 10 | 0 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 24 | 76 |
| 16 | 0 | 4 | 96 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 92 | 8 | 0 |
| 17 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 72 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 32 |
| 18 | 98 | 2 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 28 |
| 19 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 64 | 36 |
| 20 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 4 | 72 | 28 |
| 21 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 72 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 48 | 52 |
| 22 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 94 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 92 |
| 23 | 100 | 0 | 0 | 80 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 32 | 68 |
| 24 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 96 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 72 |
| 25 | 100 | 0 | Ò | 98 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 78 |
| 26 | 52 | 34 | 14 | 62 | 36 | 2 | 50 | 30 | 20 |
| 27 | 94 | 0 | 6 | 82 | 18 | 0 | 20 | 12 | 68 |

Fifty individuals per site were examined. Topodemes no. 1-15 correspond to subsp. *elatior*. The most characteristic features of subsp. *corcontica*, viz. the wingless petiole (A₃) and finely dentate margin of the leaf blade (B₃) appeared, at a low frequency, in topodemes of subsp. *elatior*, the first in 14, the latter only in 4 out of 15. No individual combining these two characters showed up in the entire set of 750 plants examined. The shape of the blade varies greatly in subsp. *elatior* but leaf blade cuneate at base (C₃) is rather rare. The decurrent leaf blade is missing. Topodeme no. 16 is a typical subsp. *corcontica*. Topodemes no 17-25 comprise typical subsp. *tatrensis* and transitions to subsp. *elatior*. The last two topodemes (no. 26-27) proved highly aberrant in differing markedly from each other and amalgamating characters of all three subspecies. They require further study. Some plants come very close to subsp. *corcontica*.

Tab. 4. The distinguishing characters of the three subspecies

| | subsp. elatior | subsp. corcontica | subsp. tatrensis |
|----------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Petiole | Winged, dentate | Wingless, entire | Broadly winged, blade decurrent, dentate |
| Blade | Flat or moderately undulate at base | Flat | Distinctly undulate at base |
| Margin of leaf blade | Dentate to grossly dentate | Finely dentate | Doubly dentate to lobulate in the lower part |
| Base of leaf blade | Cordate, abruptly contracted or rarely cuneate | Cordate | Cuneate or abruptly contracted |

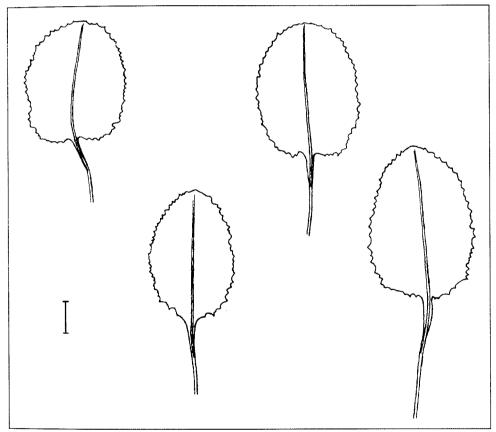


Fig. 1. Showing variation in the leaf shape in *P. elatior* subsp. *corcontica*. (Venation not shown). (Orig. J. Soják, scale bar: 1 cm)

results there. In the Western Sudeten there was a homogeneous population of *elatior* in the foothills free from any introgression which in some way or other managed to colonize new isolated habitats above the tree line. Here speciation processes may have been operating for thousands of years though hampered seriously by the limited possibilities of gene exchange. Yet they succeeded in producing a well defined local endemic. What is even more interesting, the differentiation took place solely at the diploid level, 2n = 22.

It is important to note that subsp. *corcontica* is not an evolutionary parallel to subsp. *tatrensis*; indeed its morphological characteristics are in many respects contrary to it.

As suggested by STEBBINS (1950), in the evolution of geographically isolated subspecies or species, initial separation and divergence have been caused by the response of the ancestral population to different selection pressures; this results from ecological differentiation in various parts of its originally more uniform environment. Most geographical races may therefore have arisen primarily as ecotypes and their separate distribution may be an accidental secondary result of ecotypic differentiation. Subsp. corcontica seems to be one such example.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks go to the Managements of the Krkonoše National Park, Vrchlabí, and of the Jeseníky Protected Landscape Area, Malá Morávka, for their kind permission to carry out the field research. The study was supported by a grant of the GA ČSAV no. 60536 and of the GA ČR no. 206/93/1178.

References

- BERCHTOLD F. & OPIZ F. M. (1839): Oekonomisch-technische Flora Böhmens nach einem ausgedehnten Plane bearbeitet 2/2. Prag.
- DOMIN K. (1924): Úvahy a studie o regionálním členění Čech z hlediska geobotanického. Spisy Přírod. Fak. Karl. Univ. 1924/9: 1-38.
- DOMIN K. (1930): O variabilitě prvosenky bledožluté (Primula elatior Hill.) v Československu. Věda Přír. 11: 236-242.
- Domin K. (1935): Plantarum Čechoslovakiae enumeratio species vasculares indigenas et introductas exhibiens. Preslia 13-15: 1-305.
- FIEK E. (1881): Flora von Schlesien preussischen und österreichischen Antheils. Breslau.
- GÖPPERT H. R. (1864): Eine botanische Exkursion ins Riesengebirge vom 26. bis 29. Juni 1863. Österr. Bot. Zeitschr. 14: 305-312.
- JENÍK J. (1961): Alpinská vegetace Krkonoš, Králického Sněžníku a Hrubého Jeseníku. Praha.
- KOVANDA M. (1992): 1. Primula L. prvosenka. In: HEJNÝ S. & SLAVÍK B. (eds.): Květena České republiky 3, p. 246-252.
- LIMPRICHT W. (1930): Die Pflanzenwelt der Schneegruben im Riesengebirge (Phanerogamen und Archegoniaten). Bot. Jber. 63, Beibl. 142: 1-74.
- PAWLOWSKA S. (1963): Rodzina: Primulaceae, Pierwosnkowate. In: PAWLOWSKI B. (ed.): Flora Polska 10, p. 39-76.
- PROCHAZKA F. & ŠTURSA J. (1972): Příspěvek ke květeně Krkonoš. Opera Corcont. 9: 134-164.
- SCHUSTLER F. (1918): Krkonoše. Rostlinozeměpisná (fytogeografická) studie. Arch. Přírod. Výzk. Čech 16/4: 1-181.
- STEBBINS G. L. (1950): Variation and evolution in plants. New York.

ŠMARDA J. (1951): Srovnání květeny Hrubého Jeseníku se sousedními horskými masivy. – Přírod. Sborn. Ostrav. Kraje 11: 176-182.

ŠOUREK J. (1969): Květena Krkonoš. – Praha.

ŠTEFFAN O. (1982): Příspěvek ke květeně Krkonoš (7). – Opera Corcont. 25: 119-139.

WIMMER F. (1844): Flora von Schlesien preussischen und österreichischen Antheils 1. Ed. 2. -Breslau.

WIMMER F. & GRABOWSKI H. (1827): Flora Silesiae 1. - Vratislaviae.

Appendix

List of German topographical names (in common use before 1945)

Czech Republic

Schwarzwasser Černá Voda Schwarzbach Černý potok Nieder-Kleinaupa Dolní Malá Úpa Hackelsdorf Herlíkovice Hofmannsbauden Hofmannovy boudy Obere Häuser Hoření Domky Hochgesenke Hrubý Jeseník Johannisbad Janské Lázně

Karlsdorf Karlov Kesselkoppe Kotel, Kokrháč

Glatzer Schneeberg, Grulicher Schneeberg, Králický Sněžník

Spieglitzer Schneeberg

Kuh-Berg Kraví hora Riesengebirge Krkonoše

Elbe Labe

Elbegrund Labský důl Fuchs-Berg Liščí hora Wiesenbaude Luční bouda Kleine Kesselgrube Malá Kotelná jáma Kleiner Kessel Malá Kotlina

Kleinmohrau Malá Morávka Klein-Schneeberg Malý Sněžník

March Morava (river) Mohra Moravice

Neu-Vogelseifen Nová Rudná

Schäferei Ovčárna Pec pod Sněžkou Petzer

Grenzbauden Pomezní Boudy Přední Labská Ochsengraben Morgenland Raná Rochlitz a. d. Iser Rokytnice nad Jizerou

Rehorn

Rýchory

Spálený mlýn Strážné Studniční hora Svoboda nad Úpou Šestidomí

Sestidomi Špindlerův Mlýn Tvarožné díry Velká Kotelná jáma

Velká Kotelná jáma Velký kotel

Velká kotlina Velká Úpa Vlaštovčí skály Vrchlabí

Výrovka

Poland

Jelenia Góra Karkonosze Kowary Górne Mały Kocioł Śnieżny

Miedzianka

Schronisko na Hali Szrenickiej Schronisko pod Łabskim Szczytem

Śnieżnik Kłodzki

Mohornmühle Pommerndorf Brunnberg Freiheit Sechsstätten Spindelmühle Quarklöcher

Grosse Kesselgrube

Grosser Kessel (in the Krkonoše Mts.) Grosser Kessel (in the Hrubý Jeseník Mts.)

Grossaupa Schwalbenfelsen Hohenelbe Geiergucke

Hirschberg Riesengebirge Ober-Schmiedeberg Kleine Schneegrube

Kupferberg

Neue Schlesische Baude Alte Schlesische Baude Glatzer Schneeberg

> Received: 17 March 1997 Revised: 27 May 1997 Accepted: 30 May 1997