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NEW DATA ON DISTRIBUTION OF TWO RARE ORCHID SPECIES (*Orchis tridentata* Scop. and *O. papilionacea* L.) IN ARMENIA

The data on new location in Armenia as the first find in Darelegis floristic region is given for endangered species *Orchis tridentata*. Another rare orchid species *O. papilionacea* was found in Zangezur floristic region – this is the first record of the species for the south of Armenia.

Orchis tridentata, *Orchis papilionacea*,
rare orchids of Armenia

Ասատրյան Ա. Թ. Նոր տվյալներ Հայաստանում խոլորձի երկու հազվագյուտ տեսակի (*Orchis tridentata* Scop. և *O. papilionacea* L.) տարածման վերաբերյալ: Բերվում են տվյալներ Հայաստանում վտանգված *Orchis tridentata* տեսակի նոր աճելավայրի վերաբերյալ, ինչը Դարեղեգիսի ֆլորիստիկ շրջանում այս տեսակի գրանցման առաջին դեպքն է: Խոլորձի մեկ այլ հազվագյուտ *O. papilionacea* տեսակը հայտնաբերվել է Զանգեզուրի ֆլորիստիկ շրջանում: Տեսակը հարավային Հայաստանի համար բերվում է առաջին անգամ:

Orchis tridentata, *Orchis papilionacea*,
Հայաստանի հազվագյուտ խոլորձներ

Асатрян А.Т. Новые данные по распространению двух редких видов ятрышника (*Orchis tridentata* Scop. и *O. papilionacea* L.) в Армении. Приводятся данные о новом местонахождении – первом в Дарелегисском флористическом районе редкого вида *Orchis tridentata*. Еще один редкий вид ятрышника *O. papilionacea* был обнаружен в Зангезурском флористическом районе. Это первый случай регистрации вида в южной Армении.

Orchis tridentata, *Orchis papilionacea*,
редкие орхидеи Армении

In May of 2019 two rare orchid species have been found in the south of Armenia on our joint trip with Laurie Jackson and Philip Precey from “Wildlife Travel” (UK) and Marat Shahbekyan from

“Seven Springs Tour” local travel agency, which organized the trip.

Orchis tridentata Scop. – a rare species of the flora of Armenia, listed in the Red Data book as an endangered (EN) (Tamanyan et al., 2010) was found on 16th of May in Noravank gorge, Vayots Dzor province on the top of a dry rocky slope at 1735 m above sea level in a juniper sparse woodland formed with *Juniperus polycarpus*. As far as there was only one plant it wasn’t collected for herbarium, but photographed (photo 1). This species in Armenia was known only from Ijevan and Zangezur floristic regions (Averyanov, Nersesyan, 2001), so it was its first finding in Darelegis floristic region. General distribution area of *O. tridentata* covers Caucasus, Europe, The Mediterranean, Crimea and West Asia.

O. papilionacea L. – another rare orchid species, it was found on 18th of May on the roadside by the main road Goris – Kapan, in about 16 km from Goris town. Its habitat was a grassland by the forest verge on 1500 m above sea level. The orchid’s flowers were scorched by sun as seen on the photo 2. There is no herbarium material on this species in the herbarium of the Institute of Botany after A. Takhtajyan of the National Academy of Sciences of Armenia (ERE) and, unfortunately, we couldn’t collect *O. papilionacea* for herbarium because there was just one plant.

Orchis papilionacea L. is a rare species of the Armenian flora, mentioned only for Ijevan floristic region in the north of the country. Here it is represented with subspecies *O. papilionacea* L. subsp. *schirvanica* (Woronow) Soó, which distribution area includes Caucasus and north of Iran (Averyanov, Nersesyan, 2001). The species is listed in the Red Data book of Armenia under Data Deficient (DD) category (Tamanyan et al., 2010). *O. papilionacea* general distribution area includes Caucasus, southern Europe, The Mediterranean and south-western Asia.

The given new data will be useful in the reassessment of *O. tridentata* and *O. papilionacea* status for the upcoming new edition of the Red Data book of Armenia.

Because of a very limited time we had on the trip it was impossible to explore larger areas in order to find more specimens of these orchid species. More detailed explorations in the mentioned loca-

tions are planned for the nearer future.

I want to express my gratitude to Dr. Anush Nersesyan for her help in identification of the found species.

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Photo 1. Orchis tridentata Scop.



Photo 2. Orchis papilionacea L.