

Таксономично проучване на род *Bupleurum* L. (Апиасеае) в България  
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TAXONOMIC STUDY OF THE GENUS *BUPLEURUM* L. (APIACEAE) IN BULGARIA  
(Summary)

The Balkan Peninsula is one of the centers of diversity of annual *Bupleurum* species, which is confirmed by the taxonomic scheme of the genus in Bulgaria, including 14 annuals and 3 perennials. The annual *Bupleurum* species in Bulgaria represent 25% of the world wealth of the annuals of genus *Bupleurum*.

In the taxonomy of the *Bupleurum* the highest taxonomic value has the shape and venation of bracts and bracteoles, the features of the petals (shape and size of the outer part, shape of the curved lobe and presence / absence of projections) and the characters of the mericarp (shape, size, presence / absence of projections on the surface, size of the style and stylopodium).

The most common basic chromosome number among the Bulgarian representatives of *Bupleurum* is  $x=8$ . Only two species (*B. flavum* and *B. ranunculoides*) have a basic number  $x=7$ . No polyploidy was found in the studied Bulgarian populations of *Bupleurum* species. The lack of hybrids, even between very similar species, especially in annuals of *Bupleurum*, leads to the conclusion the main evolutionary mechanism in the genus is the rapid and easy establishment of genetic barriers based mainly on chromosome isolation. A less common evolutionary trend in the genus is the change in the basic chromosome number. Descending dysploidy was found in the sections of *Bupleurotypus* and *Aristata*.

The number and size of the oil ducts in the fruit have an important taxonomic value among the representatives of the section *Juncea*. Three clearly distinguishable series of species are formed. Serie *B. boissieri*–*B. affine*–*B. pachnospermum*, characterized by single, wide (70–100  $\mu\text{m}$ ), visible ducts in the furrows, serie *B. commutatum*–*B. aequiradiatum*, also with single but narrow (30–40  $\mu\text{m}$ ), obscure and obliterated oil ducts in the furrows and serie *B. asperuloides*–*B. pauciradiatum*–*B. tenuissimum*–*B. euboicum*, in which the oil ducts are 2–3 in the furrows and in addition it is characterized by the presence of granulate or warty formations in the petal bends.

As a result of genetic studies of the populations of *B. boissieri*, it can be concluded that the species with limited and highly fragmented area have lower genetic diversity and characterized by a relatively homogeneous genetic structure of each of the populations. Genetic exchange between them is severely limited due to fragmentation and destruction of habitats. However, as a result of the isolation of the *B. boissieri* populations in Bulgaria and Romania, it has become a clear spatial differentiation between them.

From a conservation point of view, Northeastern Bulgaria, and in particular Dobrudzha, is the most valuable territory for the genus *Bupleurum* in Bulgaria. The presence of relict steppe habitats in this part of the country is a prerequisite for the preservation of relict parts of the area of two of the rarest species of section *Juncea* in the Balkans, *B. boissieri* and *B. pauciradiatum*, whose main area lie in Asia Minor. *Bupleurum tenuissimum* and *B. euboicum* closely associated with halophytic habitats, both coastal and inland.

Representatives of the section *Aristata*, whose center of speciation and diversity are the Western Balkans and the Aegean region are found mainly in the southern parts of the country and are Mediterranean elements in the Bulgarian flora. *Bupleurum apiculatum* and *B. flavum* are autochthonous elements, while *B. odontites* is considered a neophyte.