



Establishment of *Rosa* sect. *Caninae* subsect. *Orientalis* (Rosaceae) and the recognition of an unusual variety of *Rosa vanheurckiana* from eastern Anatolia, Turkey

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Abstract

The establishment of section *Orientalis* in the genus *Rosa* (Rosaceae) was proposed by Crépin in 1868, but only the name of the taxon was published. Section *Orientalis* was not formally described until more than a hundred years later by Mandenova (1970), who placed in it three closely related species: *Rosa orientalis* (as the type of the section), *R. heckeliana* and *R. vanheurckiana*. These three taxa and *R. doluchanovii* described in 1976 fall entirely within the morphological circumscription of section *Caninae*, however, their combined features do not fit any subsection recognized in this section. The reduction of section *Orientalis* to the new rank of subsection is thus hereby proposed. In addition an unusual morphotype of *Rosa vanheurckiana* with hypanthia and fruits covered with densely pilose setae is described from the province of Malatya in eastern Anatolia, Turkey as *Rosa vanheurckiana* var. *barbata*.

Introduction

Rosa vanheurckiana Crépin (1872: 683) is one of the least known taxonomically complex species of *Rosa* section *Caninae* DC. (1818: 3), emend. Christ (1873: 36). It was described in 1872 based on material collected by the Austrian botanist, plant collector and traveller Theodor Kotschy (1813–1866) from the province of Muş in eastern Anatolia, Turkey (Crépin 1872). In 1888 it was treated by Christ (1888) as a variety of the European species *R. coriifolia* Fries (1814: 33); syn. *R. dumalis* Bechstein (1810: 939) *sensu lato*. For this reason nearly a hundred years its name was omitted from botanical literature. In 1944 it was resurrected as *R. atropatana* Sosn. from Azerbaijan (Sosnovsky 1944: 22) and it is still mentioned under this name in publications concerning the Caucasian or Transcaucasian floras (Grossheim 1952, Khrzhanovsky 1954, Fedorov 1958, Sokolov *et al.* 1980). We are reminded only of the existence of the name *R. vanheurckiana* by Mandenova in her revision of the Turkish species of *Rosa* (Mandenova 1970) and two years later by Nilsson in his account of the genus for the *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands* (Nilsson 1972).

In 1976 another species closely related to *Rosa vanheurckiana* was described from Svanethia in Georgia, namely *R. doluchanovii* Mandenova (1976). This is a dwarf shrub with densely hairy stems and pedicels, differing from the first-named species mainly by its smooth hypanthia and pedicels.

Rosa heckeliana Trattinnick (1823: 85), which occurs in southeastern Europe, *R. orientalis* Dupont ex Seringe (1825: 607), *R. vanheurckiana* and *R. doluchanovii*, all three from southwestern Asia, form a very characteristic and natural group of closely related species with the following features in common:—dwarf habit; subulate prickles; densely pubescent stems and pedicels; uniserrate, sericeous-silky, eglandular leaflets and erect or ascending, persistent sepals which are longer than the petals and distinctly broadened at the apex.