



## Article

### *Himantoglossum jankae* (Orchidaceae: Orchideae), a new name for a long-misnamed lizard orchid

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#### Abstract

A new name, *Himantoglossum jankae*, is given to the widely recognised lizard orchid species that is distributed primarily in the Balkan Peninsula and the northwestern region of Asia Minor and has been erroneously named *H. caprinum* in most previous literature. The new species differs from its closest relatives in having the combination of relatively large, reddish-purple coloured flowers and labella that bear red papillate spots and comparatively long spurs. We present a morphological description of *H. jankae*, together with illustrations, distribution information and diagnostic comparisons with *H. calcaratum*, *H. adriaticum* and *H. caprinum*.

**Key words:** Asia Minor, Balkan Peninsula, Hungary, Janka, taxonomy

#### Introduction

Sramkó *et al.* (2012) recently demonstrated that neither the original material of *Orchis caprina* Marschall von Bieberstein (1819: 602) [= *Himantoglossum caprinum* (Marschall von Bieberstein) Sprengel (1826: 694)] nor the complete material of this species from its classic area in the Crimea correspond with the current application of this name. They also demonstrated conspecificity of *H. caprinum* and *H. affine* (Boissier 1882: 56) Schlechter (1918: 287) as described from Asia Minor, showing that *H. affine* is a later synonym of *H. caprinum*. Consequently, the name *H. caprinum* should no longer be applied to the lizard orchid species with papillate red spots on the labellum that is distributed from southern Slovakia across the Balkans to northern Turkey. Instead, this name should be fixed to the closely related Crimean and southwestern Asian species that lacks such labellar spots.

Although the change in the interpretation of the name *H. caprinum* will cause some inconvenience for European taxonomists, its rejection in favour of the widely used *H. affine* is not possible. In fact, ever since its original description, the name *H. caprinum* has been consistently and correctly applied to the Crimean lizard orchid. However, for some unknown reason, incorrect characteristics were subsequently ascribed to the Crimean plant (Schmalhausen 1897). Further Russian treatments uniformly continued uncritical reproduction of this erroneous description until recently (Vakhrameeva & Tatarenko 2008). This fact caused serious confusion; the wrong description encouraged botanists to incorrectly apply the name *H. caprinum* outside the Crimea, extending the putative geographic distribution of this species to central European territories where *H. caprinum* does not actually occur.