Richard Lorenz, Maia Akhalkatsi, Helmut Baumann, Pierluigi Cortis, Annalena Cogoni und Antonio Scrugli

Platanthera kuenkelei s.l. auf Sardinien und in Georgien, eine für Europa neue Art – ein Beitrag zu ihrer Taxonomie

Summary

Lorenz, R., Akhalkatsi, M., Baumann, H., Cortis, P., Cogoni, A. & A. Scrugli (2012): *Platanthera kuenkelei* s.l. on Sardinia and in Georgia, a species new for Europe – a contribution to its taxonomy.- J. Eur. Orch. 44 (1): 3-62.

Detailed morphological investigations of a *Platanthera*-species, recently reported as new for Sardinia and the second on this island after *P. algeriensis*, have been carried out in comparison to central, northwest and north European *P. bifolia* s.l., Caucasian subsp. *atropatanica* and central European *P. chlorantha*. The results confirm its affinity to North African *P. kuenkelei* subsp. *kuenkelei*, recently shown by molecular genetic investigations carried out by the working group of Cozzolino/Naples, as well as to the Caucasian subsp. *atropatanica* and overall justify the attribution of both to *P. kuenkelei* as var. *sardoa* or respectively as subsp. *atropatanica*. This species, extremely rare in Sardinia and North Africa, is severely endangered by heavy grazing in this regions, less but still to some extent in the Caucasus too. Conservation of the Sardinian population through suitable protection measures is strongly recommended. Furthermore multivariate analysis does not confirm a recently proposed separation of European *P. bifolia* L. above variety level based on morphometric data.