

**NEW LOCALITIES OF *ROSA GALLICA* (ROSACEAE) IN SOUTHERN POLAND**

AGNIESZKA NOBIS, EWELINA KLICHOWSKA, MARCIN NOBIS\*

Department of Plant Taxonomy, Phytogeography and Herbarium, Institute of Botany,  
Jagiellonian University, Kopernika 27, 31-501 Kraków, Poland

\* – corresponding author

**ABSTRACT:** The paper presents new records for rare and endangered species – *Rosa gallica* L. from southern Poland. At each of the new stations french rose occupies secondary, anthropogenic habitats. Distribution map and habitat preferences of the studied species are provided.

**KEY WORDS:** distribution, french rose, endangered species



## Introduction

*Rosa gallica* L. (french rose) is a species occurring mostly in central, southern and south-eastern Europe. A few stations of the species were also noted in Asia Minor and Caucasus (Meusel et al. 1965). In Poland, *R. gallica* reaches northern limit of its geographical range. Its stations are concentrated mostly in the southern part of the country (Zajac and Zajac 2001).

French rose is a species with relatively high light and temperature requirements (Zarzycki et al. 2002). It usually occurs on limestone (with a high content of CaCO<sub>3</sub>), rarely on sandy soils. *Rosa gallica* grows along the forest fringes, on sunny slopes, field balks, fallow lands, roadsides as well as flood and railway embankments (Czarna 1992; Bartoszek 1997; Zieliński 2001; Piwowarczyk 2006; Bartoszek and Siatka 2008; Gierczyk and Soboń 2008; Piwowarski 2011; Klichowska 2013; Wójcik et al. 2014). According to Matuszkiewicz (2012) the taxon is diagnostic for *Potentillo albae-Quercetum rosetosum gallicae* subassociation. Moreover, it also can be found in termophilous communities mostly representing: *Festuco-Brometea* class, *Quercetalia pubescentis* and *Prunetalia* orders, as well as communities belonging to the *Carpinion betuli* alliance (Zieliński 2014).

*Rosa gallica* is protected in Poland (Dz. U. from 9th October 2014, No 1409). As a threatened species it is also red-listed in the country (Mirek et al. 2006). According to Zarzycki and Szelağ (2006) it is vulnerable in the area of Poland. It is also included in the Polish red data book of plants (Zieliński 1993, 2001, 2014). The species is considered to be threatened also in other Central European countries. It is red-listed in Germany (Korneck et al. 1996) and the Czech Republic (Grulich 2012).

## Methods

Floristic studies were conducted in southern Poland. ATPOL grid system was used to show the species distribution and location of new stations in Poland. Capital letters indicate the 100-km squares, while the numbers denote the 10-km squares (Zajac 1978). The herbarium material is deposited in the Herbarium of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków (KRA).

## Results and Conclusions

We have found four new stations of *Rosa gallica* (Fig. 1). At each station, french rose occupies secondary, anthropogenic habitats.

**FF11:** Sulphur Mine ‘Machów’ in Tarnobrzeg (Kotlina Sandomierska Basin), edges of a large excavation, 6 Sept 2005, A. Nobis & M. Nobis;

**FF37:** 1.5 km to the NNE of the Przychojec village near Leżajsk, (San River Valley), edge of meadow, 18 Jun 2009, A. Nobis;

**FF68:** 1 km E of the Wierzbna village near Jarosław, (San River Valley), grassland on the railway embankment, 4 Aug 2009, A. Nobis & M. Nobis;

**GF60:** Łazy village near Radymno, (San River Valley), a field balk, 18 Jul 2011, A. Nobis & M. Nobis.

Agricultural intensification (including herbicide usage, frequent mowing, burning and fertilization) as well as agricultural abandonment (triggering the processes of secondary succession) are undesirable for maintenance of *Rosa gallica* populations. Therefore in order to preserve the stations of this species active protection treatments (including cutting of expansive shrubs, extensive mowing or grazing) are needed (Zieliński 2014). Despite the fact that the species is threatened in Poland, new localities of *Rosa gallica* are still found. As in the case of stations described in this paper, most of the recently found localities are of anthropogenic origin (Piwowarczyk 2006; Gierczyk and Soboń 2008; Piwowarski 2011; Klichowska 2013; Fig. 2).



Fig. 1. Distribution map of *Rosa gallica* L in Poland (in ATPOL grid of squares 10 km x 10 km, after Zieliński 2014): ● – locality confirmed after 1990, ● – locality unconfirmed after 1990, ● – new locality.



Fig. 2. *Rosa gallica* L. on unused dry meadow.

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