



## *Galanthus panjutinii* sp. nov.: a new name for an invalidly published species of *Galanthus* (Amaryllidaceae) from the northern Colchis area of Western Transcaucasia

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### Abstract

*Galanthus panjutinii*, a new species endemic to the calcareous ridges of the northern Colchis area (Western Transcaucasia) is described and illustrated. Morphological differences between the new species and the closely related species, *G. krasnovii* and *G. platyphyllus*, are discussed. A line illustration, photographs, map and conservation assessment are provided.

**Key words:** Abkhazia, calciphylls, Krasnodar Territory, Russian flora, snowdrops

### Introduction

During field studies on the Aibga Ridge in the Tuapse-Adler region (Krasnodar Territory, Russia) of Western Transcaucasia, in April 2008 and March and April 2011 a population of *Galanthus* Linnaeus (1753: 288) was discovered (D. Zubov, O. Bondareva, pers. observ.) with individuals possessing a morphology unlike any species known from the region (Davis 1999, 2001; Zubov 2011). In the last edition of the *Caucasian Flora Conspectus* (Takhtajan *et al.* 2006), the only *Galanthus* like this occurring in the Tuapse-Adler region was *G. platyphyllus* Traub & Moldenke (1948: 110) as reported by Artjushenko & Mordak (2006). These unusual plants were found growing in oriental beech forest, *Fagus orientalis* Lipsky (1898: 300), on humus-carbonaceous soils at around 800 m. More detailed studies showed that they shared morphological characters with *G. krasnovii* Khokhrjakov (1963: 140) (e.g. anthers tapering to an apiculum) and *G. platyphyllus* (e.g. inner perianth segments obovate, with an uncharacteristic barely developed apical notch). Some plants from this population also had an apical notch on each inner perianth segment, making the flowers somewhat similar to *G. woronowii* Losina-Losinskaya (1935: 749).

In order to elucidate the identity of this *Galanthus* population we turned to the relevant botanical works (Grossheim 1940, 1949; Khokhrjakov 1966; Artjushenko 1970; Kolakovsky 1938, 1986; Davis 1999, 2001; Artjushenko *et al.* 2006) and geomorphological literature (Zakharov, 1934; Kolakovsky, 1961), and the herbarium of the Komarov Botanical Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (LE). During the study of the *Galanthus* herbarium specimens originating from Abkhazia housed at LE, we also examined material of an invalidly published name '*G. valentinae*'. *Galanthus valentinae* was first collected on 12 April 1913 by G. Sakharov (*Sakharov 634*; LE) in a clearing above Gagra (Abkhazia), at the boundary between Nordmann fir-tree (*Abies nordmanniana* (Steven) Spach (1841: 418)) forest and subalpine meadow, at 1600 m elevation. The specific epithet *G. valentinae* was given to this collection by P.S. Panjutin, as a determination on the herbarium specimen *Sakharov 634*, but this species was never validly published by him. Grossheim (1940) attempted to formalize the name *G. valentinae* Panjut. ex Grossh. with a brief description in Russian, but his