

Dear friends from Germany,

I would like to ask you for your help to search for a newly distinguished taxon from the *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* range in Germany. This type occurs quite often in the warmer regions of the Czech Republic (Morava and Silesia, Polabí in the Czech Republic) and its occurrence in Germany is very likely. The type is close to the species *V. anagallis-aquatica* s. str. and *V. catenata* and, like both of these species, it is also tetraploid (*V. anagalloides* and *V. scardica* stand more apart). It can cross with both *V. catenata* (hybrids are completely sterile, do not form capsules) and *V. anagallis-aquatica* (hybrids are sterile or partially form capsules). The type occurs both on bare moist soil (edges of ponds, banks of ponds and sandpits, field wetlands) and in muddy slow-flowing streams (with *Berula erecta* or *Nasturtium*). It can be distinguished by the following key:

1a) Inflorescence completely without stalked glands; C pale blue or pale blue-violet; the lowermost leaves of first-year plants (and leaves of its lateral ground branches) with short petiole and with blade obovate to roundly obovate; stem leaves widest +/- in the middle. - **Fruit peduncles point in arc upwards,** the lowermost peduncles of racemes usually significantly longer (most often +/- 2x) than bracts; capsules usually slightly longer as wide ***V. anagallis-aquatica***

1b) Inflorescence at least with flower (fruit) peduncles with stalked glands; also the lowermost leaves of first-year plants (and leaves of its lateral ground branch) usually without petioles and with blade narrowly oblong or oblong-oblancoate; stem leaves usually widest in lower part (lanceolate to broadly lanceolate).....**2**

2a) Stalked glands presents on flower (fruit) peduncles, on axis of inflorescence racemes and also on capsules (ovaries), stalk of glands usually short; **fruit peduncles point obliquely to sides,** the lowermost peduncles of racemes usually +/- as long as bracts; capsules usually as long as wide; C pale pink ***V. catenata***

2b) Stalked glands presents only on flower (fruit) peduncles, sometimes also in upper part of axis of inflorescence racemes, but never on capsules (ovaries), stalk of glands relatively long; **fruit peduncles point in arc upwards,** the lowermost peduncles of racemes usually significantly longer (most often +/- 2x) than bracts; capsules usually slightly longer as wide; C whitish pink (pale lila - +/- as *V. serpyllifolia*) ***V. "catenatoides"***

I send you photos of this interesting taxon (*V. "catenatoides"*) as attachment.

I will be happy if you also ask your botanical friends who are interested in the wild plants to look for *V. "catenatoides"*.

Thanks in advance for any help on this matter.

With best wishes, Bob



