

THE FIRST LOWLAND LOCALITY FOR RARE
ERYTHRONIUM DENS-CANIS L. (LILIACEAE)
FROM GREECE

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Liliaceae

Erythronium dens-canis L.

Thraki: Nomos Xanthis: Municipality of Xanthi – c. 7 km north of Xanthi (41°11'05" N, 24°51'39"E), along the road to Pilima, in *Quercus* forest, with *Primula veris*, *P. vulgaris*, *Cyclamen hederifolium*, *Platanthera chlorantha*, *Cephalanthera longifolia*, etc., alt. c. 250m, 20 Feb 2010.

Erythronium dens-canis is a eurosiberian species, common at C. and S. Europe but rare in Greece. The species reaches its southern limit in northernmost Greece. It has been reported so far from E Macedonia (Mt Falakro, Mt Orvilos and Frakto forest) and Thraki (Mt. Papikio and Drimos forest north of Livaditis), usually not far from the Greek-Bulgarian borders and always above 1200m. During fieldwork in 2010, one of us (V.K.) came across this large population reported here. The population consists of probably more than 3000 plants. This new locality represents the southernmost known occurrence of the species in Greece and the only lowland one. The low altitude of the population is notable, c. 250m, compared to the >1200m reported from Greek populations of the species before. More field work is needed in order to locate new lowland populations of this rare species, having in mind that at this low altitude the taxon flowers in February and thus can easily remain undetected.

New locality for *Erythronium dens-canis*



Fig. 1. *Erythronium dens-canis*, habitus, 20 Feb 2010, Xanthi (photo V. Koudros)



Fig. 2. *Erythronium dens-canis*, habitus, 20 Feb 2010, Xanthi (photo V. Koudros)

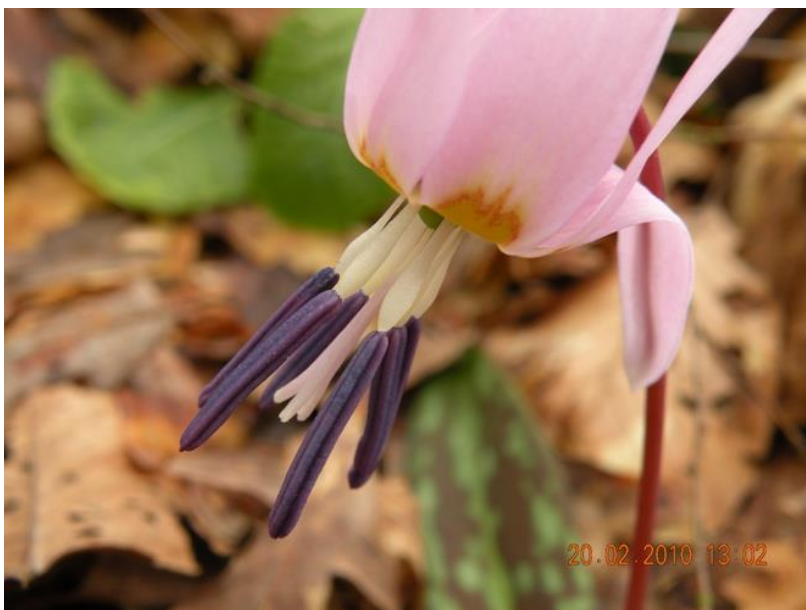


Fig. 3. *Erythronium dens-canis*, detail of the flower, 20 Feb 2010, Xanthi (photo V. Koudros)



Fig. 3. Geographical distribution of *Erythronium dens-canis* in Greece (● literature records, ● new record)



Fig. 4. Habitat of *Erythronium dens-canis*, Xanthi (photo V. Koudros)

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