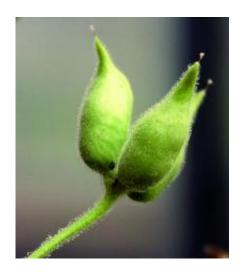


Early lineage of Larkspur and Monkshood plants rediscovered in Southern Europe

December 8 2011



These are *Staphisagria macrosperma* follicles. Credit: Florian Jabbour, Susanne S. Renner

Larkspurs, monkshoods, and aconites are plants, widely cultivated for their beauty and medicinal properties. They all belong to the Delphinieae, a natural group of 650-700 species ranging from Eurasia into North America, with a few species on tropical African mountains. The study was published in the open access journal *PhytoKeys*.

A broadly sampled molecular phylogeny for this group has revealed that three Mediterranean species constitute an ancient separate evolutionary line that is the sister group to all remaining Delphinieae. The British physician John Hill already recognized these species' distinctness in



1756, and Jabbour and Renner here resurrect the genus name he had proposed for them.



This is a *Staphisagria macrosperma* young inflorescence with floral buds. Credit: Florian Jabbour, Susanne S. Renner

Of the three species in Hill's genus *Staphisagria*, one is an important medicinal plant found all around the Mediterranean basin, the other two are endemic to Corsica, Majorca, Sardinia, and the Archipelago of Hyères in the South of France. In an article in the open access journal Phytokeys, Jabbour and Renner from the Institute of Systematic Botany at the University of Munich illustrate and discuss the newly recognized genus, explaining how its three species share traits that fit neither in *Delphinium* nor in *Aconitum*, fitting with their long independent evolutionary history.

More information: Jabbour F, Renner SS (2011) Resurrection of the genus Staphisagria J. Hill, sister to all the other Delphinieae (Ranunculaceae). PhytoKeys 7: 21. doi: 10.3897/phytokeys.7.2010



Provided by Pensoft Publishers

Citation: Early lineage of Larkspur and Monkshood plants rediscovered in Southern Europe (2011, December 8) retrieved 17 April 2024 from https://phys.org/news/2011-12-early-lineage-larkspur-monkshood-rediscovered.html

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.