

NECRANTHUS:
A NEW GENUS OF OROBANCHACEAE FROM TURKEY

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Necranthus Gilli, gen. nov.—Flores spicati, bracteati; bracteolae desunt. Calyx cupulato-connatus, truncatus. Corolla distincte bilabiata. Ovarium bicarpellatum, placentis 4 in sectione transversa subtrigonis vix stipitatis.

Differt a *Cistanche* calyce cupulato truncato, corolla bilabiata, spica infra laxiflora et stigmate emarginato. Differt ab *Orobanche* calyce cupulato-connato truncato, non dentato. Differt a *Boschniakia* et *Xylanche* placentis 4 non T-formibus et florum forma.

In flower structure, the new genus reminds one most of *Orobanche* but differs from it and its near relative *Cistanche* in the truncate but untoothed cup-shaped calyx. A similar calyx occurs in *Boschniakia* and *Xylanche*, but these two genera differ in the 2 or 3 (not 4) T-shaped placentas. In addition, they have a different floral structure and geographically (N, C and E Asia) are far distant from *Necranthus*.

The new genus has most similarity with the Caucasian *Orobanche gamosepala* Reuter. In the latter, the anterior and posterior calyx lobes are generally united, but that species always has 1 or 2 long lateral calyx teeth.

The name *Necranthus* is derived from the Greek 'nekros' (the dead) and 'anthos' (flower), on account of the dark, violet-black flowers.

N. orobanchoides Gilli, sp. nov. (fig. 1).

Pars inferior ignotus. *Caulis* pars superior 18 cm longus, ad 8 mm crassus, rubiginosus, infra subglaber, supra laxe lanatus, squamis ovato-lanceolatis obtusis, 15–25 mm longis, remotis, subglabris obsitus. *Spica* vix 10 cm longa, cylindracea, 3 cm crassa, infra laxiflora, supra densiflora. *Flores* 2–2.5 cm longi, 1 mm longe pedicellati, erecto-patentes. *Bractee* laxae glandulosae et in margine lanuginosae, ovali-lanceolatae, obtusae vel acuminatae, calyce multo longiores; bracteolae desunt. *Calyx* cupulato-connatus, truncatus, obsolete denticulatus, glandulosus. *Corolla* rectiuscula, in parte superiore pronus curvata, calyce 5-plo longior, tubulosa, glandulosa, violaceo-nigra, in sicco nigra, supra filamentorum insertionem dilatata, bilabiata laciniis margine crenulato-denticulatis et lanuginosis valde inaequalibus; labii superi lacinae subovales vel subquadratae conniventes vel una recurvata, interdum valde inaequales; labii inferi lacinae multo minores, forma valde variabiles. *Filamenta* 4–5 mm supra corollae basin inserta, glandulosa; antherae glabrae, breviter exsertae; thecae oblongae, basi subrotundatae, mucronatae, ochroleucae. *Ovarium* bicarpellatum, placentis 4 in sectione transversa subtrigonis vix stipitatis; stylus sparse glandulosus; stigma transverse oblongum, emarginatum, glandulosum.

TURKEY. Ag Kars: Yalnizçam Dağ between Yalnizçam and Ardanuç, 2250 m, rocky volcanic slopes, fls. violet-black, anthers cream, 16 vi 1957, Davis & Hedge, D. 29677 (holo—E).

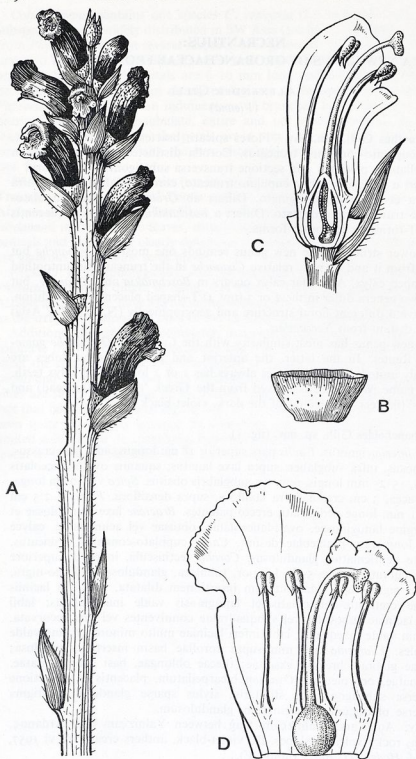


FIG. 1. *Necranthus orobanchoides* Gilli.

A. habit $\times 1$; B. calyx $\times 2$; C. flower in L.S. $\times 2$; D. corolla dissected $\times 2$.

R.M.S.