

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer – a new species of *Rubus* section *Corylifolii* Lindl. (Rosaceae)**

K. Meijer¹

Key words

Rubus vandebeekii
Rubus sectie *Corylifolii*
Limburg
apomict

Abstract – A new species, *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer, is described here. It occurs in the region in the very south of the Netherlands and adjacent regions of Belgium and Germany.

Samenvatting – In Zuid-Limburg en aangrenzend Duitsland en België komen veel karakteristieke soorten voor. Dit geldt ook voor het genus *Rubus* L. Veel van deze soorten zijn reeds beschreven, maar tijdens recent onderzoek bleek dat een kleine braam blijkbaar steeds over het hoofd wordt gezien. Er is niets over te vinden in de literatuur en er zijn ook geen collecties in herbaria, waarschijnlijk doordat de planten klein en onopvallend zijn. Als men echter eenmaal oog krijgt voor deze soort blijkt deze in genoemde regio vrij veel voor te komen. Daarom is het tijd deze te beschrijven. We hebben hem de naam *Rubus vandebeekii* gegeven.

De soort behoort tot de serie *Viatici* A. Beek. Hoewel de tere habitus en fijne bladtanding aan *R. orthacanthus* Wimm. doen denken, ontbreken de talrijke klieren van die soort en is plaatsing bij minder bekende soorten, zoals *R. favillatus*, meer voor de hand liggend.

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INTRODUCTION

The southern part of the Dutch Province of Limburg and its adjacent areas in Belgium and Germany is phytogeographically distinct from the other regions in the Netherlands and harbors many unique plant species. The genus *Rubus* L. is no exception in this regard: several endemic *Rubus* species occur in this area. A new species can now be added to the list of endemics of this region. Due to its inconspicuous appearance and the abundance of other brambles in this region, the new species is easily overlooked. However, the mapping of the Dutch brambles, a project which has been conducted by the author since 1985, has drawn lasting attention to this hitherto neglected little plant.

A NEW BRAMBLE SPECIES IN THE SECTION *CORYLIFOLII* LINDL.

***Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer**, nov. spec. — Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6

Holotype: HFN, hb. K. Meijer: *Meijer 2445*, Zuid-Limburg, Bommerig, bosrand bij Emmaus, 62.43.14, 8 July 1999.

Rubus e serie *Viatici* A. Beek parvus multo tenuior speciebus affinis. Turio rotundus vel obtusangulus (2–)3–5 mm latus aciculis subulatis 2–4 mm longis. Folia 3-nata, minute serrata subtus praesertim in nervis pilosa foliolis terminalibus late ellipticis vel subobovatis. Inflorescentia breviter tomentosa glandulis stipitatis obscure purpureis superne accrescentibus numero et longitudine. Flores alba vel aliquatenus rosea. Antherae, ovaria et receptaculum glabrum.

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Fig. 1. The holotype of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer (herb. K. Meijer, nr. 2445, HFN, sheet 1 (left) and sheet 2 (right)). Photos: Karst Meijer, Herbarium friscum.

Primocane prostrate, diameter (2–)3–5 mm, roundish, glabrous or slightly hairy, with (0–)5–25(–50) short-stalked glands per internode. Prickles (1–)8–15(–25) per internode, subulate, with a (0.5–)2–4(–6) mm large base, 2–4 mm long. Stipules linear-lanceolate, 9–13 mm long, fimbriate, with a few slender-stalked glands. Petiole 7–11 cm, longer than the lateral leaflets, above slightly short-hairy, glabrous beneath, with a few short-stalked glands and (3–)5–9(–10) patent or slightly declining prickles. Leaves 3-nate, often with lobate lateral leaflets, slightly to moderately pilose or sometimes almost glabrous above, underneath mainly on the veins thinly hairy, with long soft hairs. Margins fine, somewhat unequally sharply serrated with straight or sometimes clearly recurved dents. Petiolules of the lateral leaflets (0–)1–2(–3) mm long. Terminal leaflet (70–)80–90(–100) mm long, from an emarginated or $\pm$ rounded base rather large elliptical to obovate, rather gradually shortly acuminate or acute; width (64–)75–80% of its length. Length of the petiolule 26–34% of the length of the leaflet.

Flowering branch rounded to obtuse, rather densely set with short stellate hairs and with 10–50 short-stalked glands and (3–)8–15 very fine acicular pricklets per 5 cm; larger prickles 5–8 per internode, subulate, slightly declined, the longest ones 3–4 mm. Inflorescence irregularly pyramidal with a few leaves and a leafless apex, short-tomentose, with few to numerous stalked glands which increase in number and length from the inflorescence base to the top. Upper leaves with dense soft and short hairs underneath. Branches erect, divided in or above the middle, sometimes fasciculate, the longest ones with 2–6 flowers. Pedicels 5–35 mm long, densely and grayish short-tomentose,

with 100 to over 200 dark purple stalked glands of unequal length (usually all of them shorter than the diameter of the pedicel) and 0–4 pricklets. Sepals erect, greyish tomentose, usually rather densely glandular at the base and slightly glandular to the tip, with 10 fine pricklets. Petals white or sometimes slightly pinkish, narrow ovate, 3.5–4 mm wide and up to 9 mm long. Stamens somewhat shorter than the yellowish green styles. Anthers, carpels and receptacle glabrous. Flowering end of June and in July.

Classification — The fine serrature of the leaves and the tender appearance call to mind *R. orthacanthus* Wimmer (1856: 87), but the short stalked glands are totally different. These are even too short for the series *Subradula* H.E. Weber, and more similar to those of the species of series *Viatici*, e.g. *R. favillatus* A. Beek (2014: 99), as are prickles, which are almost equal in length. Therefore a position in this series seems appropriate.

Recognition — *Rubus vandebeekii* is a well-characterised taxon, which in the area where it occurs cannot be confused with any other species. The 3-nate, fine and sharply serrated leaves, with elliptical or slightly obovate terminal leaflet, the tender prickles, the dark purple glands in the inflorescence, (almost) white flowers, and the glabrous anthers, carpels, and receptacle are typical.

Primary hybrids of *Rubus caesius* L. can be very similar, but they differ by having a pruinose primocane, large and coarsely serrated ovate to almost orbicular leaves, and an almost glabrous florican.

Ecology — Old woods, wood edges, and hedges on limestone or loess.



Fig. 2. Stem and leaves of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer. Photo: Karst Meijer, Herbarium Friscum, 21 juli 2015.



Fig. 3. Leaves of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer. Photo: Karst Meijer, Herbarium Friscum, 21 juli 2015.



Fig. 4. Leaf of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer. Photo: Karst Meijer, Herbarium Frisicum, 21 juli 2015.



Fig. 5. Inflorescens of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer. Photo: Karst Meijer, Herbarium Frisicum, 21 juli 2015.



Fig. 6. Flowers of *Rubus vandebeekii* K. Meijer. Photo: Karst Meijer, Herbarium Frisicum, 21 juli 2015.

Distribution — Locally common in the very south of the Dutch Province of Limburg, adjacent areas of Belgium, and also near Aachen in Germany. A large population was found in the Onderste Bosch and the Bovenste Bosch near Epen, Province of Limburg. Recently found in the Flemish Ardennes, Belgium, close to Oudenaarde on several places in woodlands.

Name — The epithet is dedicated to Prof. Dr. A. van de Beek as an expression of gratitude for his massive contribution to botany in the Netherlands.

Exemplary specimens

Belgium

HFN, hb. K. Meijer — *Meijer 2719*, wood edge near Teuven, 62.43.31, 8 July 2001; *Meijer 2508*, Sint-Maartens-Voeren, edge of marshy wood, 10 July 1999; *Meijer 3788*, Oudenaarde, Flemish Ardennes, in Enamer wood, 13 juli 2017.

Germany

HFN, hb. K. Meijer — *Meijer 2504*, Aken-Stolberg, Brandenwald, roadside, 5 July 1999.

Netherlands

HFN, hb. K. Meijer — *Meijer 2124*, Kerkrade, roadside Limburg, 62.15.24, 29 June 1998; *Meijer 2631*, Sweikhuizen, wood edge, Huis Schinnen, 60.52.24, 8 July 2000; *Meijer 2541*, Gulpen, Dunnenbosch, wood edge, 62.33.22, 5 July 2000; *Meijer 2456*, St. Geertruid, Eijdsderbos, forest, 62.32.41, 4 July 1999; *Meijer 2449*, Hoogcruts, Branderbosch, wood edge, 62.42.13, 4 July 1999; *Meijer 2498*, Billingham, wood edge at roadside, 62.32.44, 10 July 1999; *Meijer 3670*, Slenaken, Groote Bosch, wood edge, 62.42.14, 15 July 2014; *Meijer 3677*, Epen, Onderste Bosch, wood edge, 62.43.22, 15 July 2014; *Meijer 3709*, Epen, Bovenste Bosch, forest, 62.43.31, 15 July 2014; *Meijer 3921*, Nijswiller, Platte Bosch, edge of wood, 62.34.22, 6 July 2017; *Meijer 4000*, Wolfhaag, Vaals, in old edge of wood, 62.44.33, 7 July 2017; *Meijer 4004*, Schinveld, Heringsbosch, wood edge along road, 60.44.44, 7 July 2017.

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