Dracocephalum ruyschiana – 2020

2.1. Latinsk navn (Latin name)

Dracocephalum ruyschiana L.

As **individual** we treat a tuft (cluster, or – ecological term – ramet) with shoots growing visibly from one place.
Juvenile individual - if a lot of young plants are spread evenly without creating visible tufts we treat area of 25 cm^2 as an individual.
Old desintegrating tufts are counted as more than one individual if it covers more than 25 cm^2.

2.2 Rødlistestatus (redlist satus)

Sårbar. (Vulnerable)

2.3 Utbredelse (spreading/place)

The species is found from the Oslofjord to Gudbrandsdalen. Norway has the main population in North-western Europe. Eastern and Central Europe and western and central Asia, extending locally westwards to Norway and the Pyrenees.

2.4 Lokaliteter i Norge (locations in Norway)

2.4.1. Lokaliteter i Oslo (locations in Oslo)

30 locations are known.

Annual monitoring of *Dracocephalum ruyschiana* was not carried out in the standard way.
I have carried out random observations on Bleikøya (10 loc.), Ekeberg (1), Malmøya (1), Nordmarka (3) and only in Heggholmen (5 +1) I conducted thorough observations and found there another new location of this species at Heggholmen Hill.

This year, due to the relatively high temperatures in June, the flowering period of *Dracocephalum* was very short. The rest of the summer, on the other hand, was quite cool and very humid. After flowering, the plants were small and poorly visible in the field, but during July and August they grew considerably. At the end of summer, many seedlings and juveniles were also observed.

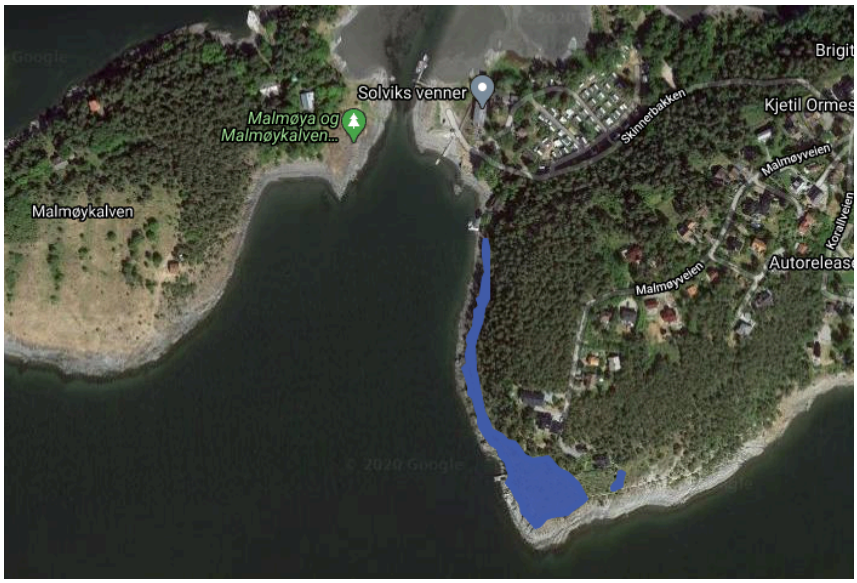
Ekeberg

I visited locations Ekeberg 1 (A) in 18.06.2020.

Generally, it was a good year for *Dracocephalum* - the plants developed well and bloomed quite abundantly early, from the beginning of June. At the time of observation plants were in the end of blooming period. *Dracocephalum* clusters are found in the same places as in previous years, but the entire surface seems to be gradually overgrowing with shrubs.

Photo 1. Ekeberg 1 (A). *Dracocephalum* plants ends blooming period. 18.06.2020.

Malmøya



At the day of observation 24.06.2020 *Dracocephalum* was after blooming period. They looks fresh but were rather small 10 – 20 cm. They were growing with the same concentrations in the same area as last years. It is recommended to cut some bushes at least along footpath on the steep Western slope.

Photo 1. *Dracocephalum* on NW part of location. 24.06.2020.

Bleikøya

Most of localities at Bleikøya were in good condition. Plants were blooming abundantly in the first half of June. Only1 individual was found at each location “3” and “9”. At location 6 there was much less *Dracocephalum* than in previous years - large old tufts disappear but young individuals appear.

Quite intensive removal of bushes was carried out at locations "4" and "5" .

On location “7” and on whole SW tip of Bleikøya very important is to try eliminate *Vincetoxicum rossicum* which is growing here.

Map 1. Localities on Bleikøya. *Dracocephalum* individuals were not counted this year.

Photo 1. Location 6. 29.06.2020.

Photo 2. Location 7 with *Vincetoxicum rossicum*. 29.06.2020.

Photo 3. Location 5 is overgrowing with bushes. 29.06.2020.

Photo 4. Top of location 5 after cutting bushes on both sides of footpath. 24.08.2020.

Photo 5. Part of location 4 before cutting bushes. 24.08.2020.

Photo 6. Part of location 4 after cutting bushes. 24.08.2020.

Also a lot of bushes and trees were cut along footpath going through location 4.

HEGGHOLMEN – 2020

Location: Heggholmen 1

Individuals: ca. 200

Area: ca. 10 x15 m (0.026 ha)

Environment (habitat): SW part of the flat top of the hill. In thermophilous vegetation on shallow soil. With~~: *Fraxinus excelsior, Sobus aucuparia*~~,(unnecessarily cut 3 years ago) *Rosa sp., Berberis vulgaris* and *Allium vineale, Cotoneaster sp., Filipendula vulgaris, Fragaria vesca, Geranium sanguineum, Hylotelephium telephium ssp. maximum (Sedum telephium = Sedum maximum)Polygonatum odoratun, Sedum album, , Thymus pulegioides, Vincetoxicum rossicum*.

Condition: *Dracocephalum* plants were small and already in the end of blooming period in 25.06. Due to the high activity of *Arvicola terrestris* (jordrotte, vånd) and the relatively humid summer, *Dracocephalum* grew very much after flowering and was the dominant species on the plot in late August. Probably *Arvicola terrestris* destroys more other plant species, which in turn promotes the development of *Dracocephalum*. This location of *Dracocephalum* seams to be stable but plants grow still on the same area (without expanding).

Care: This area should be mowed by motor scythe once every 2 - 3 years after *Dracocephalum* seeds are ripen. The area was last mowed in August 2014. (This area has not been mowed this year. The purpose of mowing on this plot was to remove excess biomass (other than *Dracocephalum* plants). Therefore, in a situation where *Dracocephalum* constituted a large part of this biomass, mowing was abandoned this year.)

GPS-coordinates: 59°52'55.90"N 10°42'42.10"E

Date of watch: 25-26.06; 31.08; 1-2.09. 2020.

Owner: **Photos:** R. Gramsz **Observer:** R.Gramsz

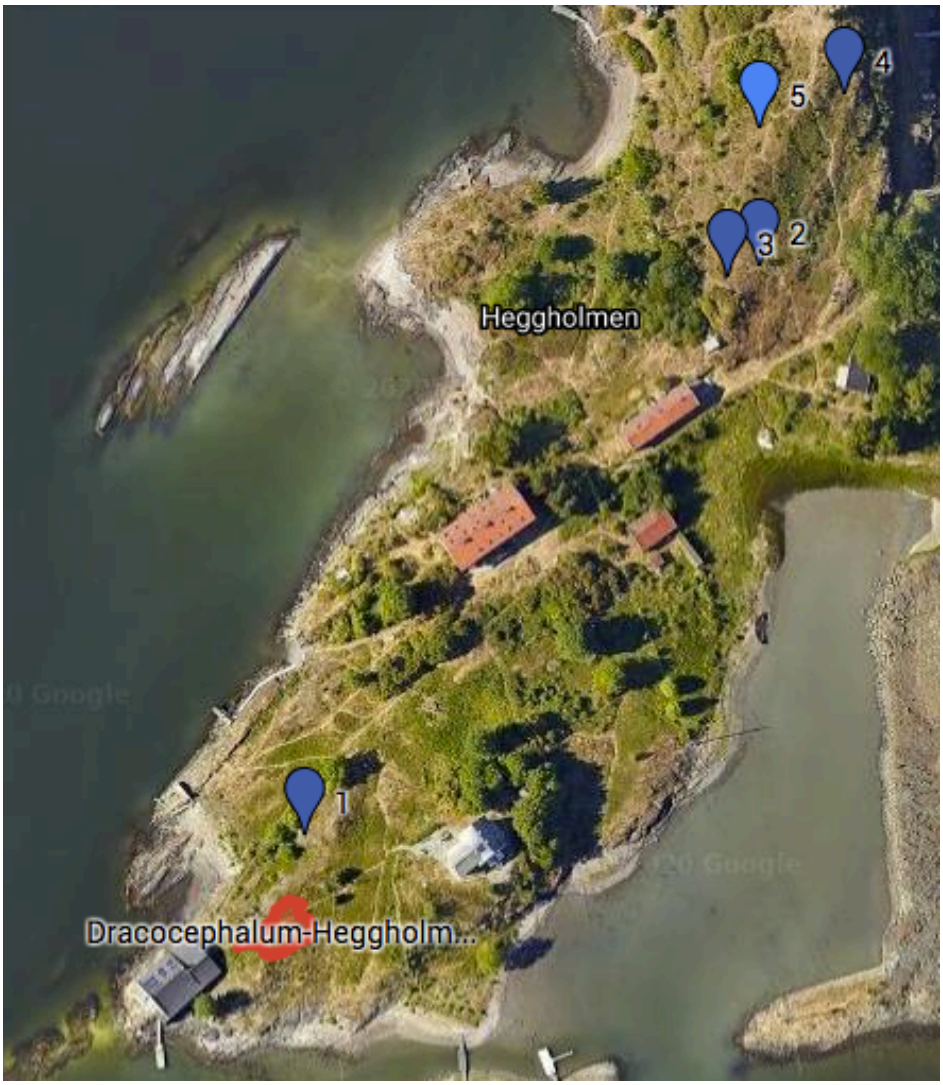
Photo 1. Main (known) location in Heggholmen. 25.06.2020.

Photo 2. End of blooming on main location on Heggholmen. 25.06.2020.

New localities at Heggholmen.

4 new localities were found on Heggholmen in 2019 and one more no “5” in this 2020 year. Probably this year's wet summer caused the seeds of Dragehode to germinate (juvenile specimens and seedlings were found on the new site) and old plants grew over the summer so that at the end of August they were more visible and larger than in June after flowering. New location “1” is located 50 m from the main, known location and no “2” – “5” on Heggholmen Hill some 250 – 300 m from main location. See map 1.

Stand 1 covers an area of 3 x 3 m and consist of 20 tufts + juvenile of *Dracocephalum*.
Stand 2 covers an area of 1 x 3 m and consist of 10 tufts.
Stand 3 covers an area of 1 x 2 m and consist of 3 tufts.
Stand 4 covers an area of 1 x 2 m and consist of 3 tufts.
Stand 5 covers an area of 1 x 1 m and consist of 3 juvenile individuals.



Map 1. *Dracocephalum* localities at Heggholmen 2020.
- marked red – the old Dragehode location
- marked blue 1,2,3,4. – new locations found in 2019.
- marked light blue 5. – new location found in 2020.

Photo 1. New location 1, closest to main location. 26.08.2020.

Photo 2. New location 2, on Heggholmen Hill. 26.08.2020.

Photo 3. *Dracocephalum* plants, new localion 3 on Heggholmen Hill. 26.08.2020.

Photo 4. Location “4”, Heggholmen Hill. 26.08.2020.

Photo 5. Juvenile plants in new location no “5”, Heggholmen Hill. 26.08.2020.

Nordmarka

Svartør 1

Photo 1. The main part of locality “Svartør 1” - Despite the felling of trees and shrubs from this area and better sunlight, it constantly changes its character from "dry, rocky" to more "wet, meadow". 4.07.2020.

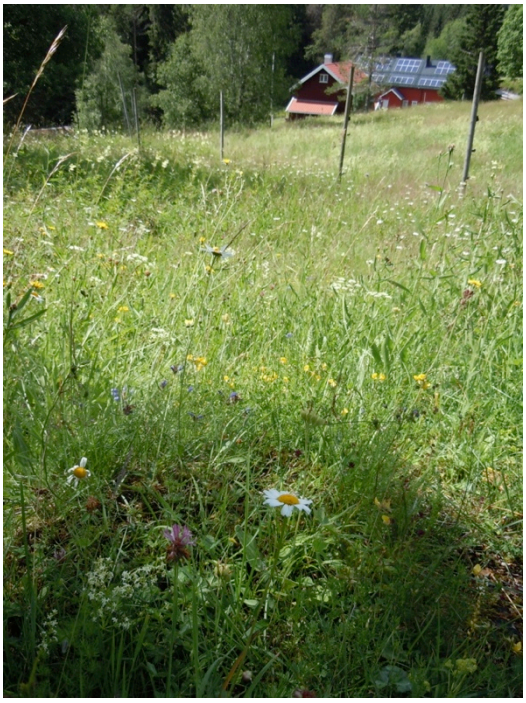


Photo 2. Location Svartør 1. Single individuals of *Dracocephalum* can be found also on rocky parts of nearby meadow. 4.07.2020.

Svartør 2

Photo 1. Location Svartør 2 with about 15 individuals of *Dracocephalum* is overgrowing. Some rose bushes and spruce branches were cut from the background of location in this year. 4.07.2020.

Blankvann 1

Photo 1. This location is overgrown with high grassy vegetation. In the following years of observation, from 1 to 3 individuals of *Dracocephalum* were found here. It is interesting that they survived here in a rather unfavorable environment for them. This year, 3 individuals were found. 12.07.2020.