



## A new genus and two new species records on *Helleborus orientalis* for Turkey

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With 3 figures

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**Abstract:** *Pirottaea veneta*, a species of herbicolous discomycetes, and *Microsphaeropsis hellebori* have been recently discovered on *Helleborus orientalis* in Turkey. *Pirottaea* has been recorded as a genus new for Turkey. Morphological data obtained by light and scanning electron microscopy of the identified fungi was presented.

**Key words:** Microfungi, new records, SEM.

### Introduction

*Helleborus* L. is a small genus in the family Ranunculaceae, distributed widely from middle, southern and eastern Europe to the borders of the Caucasus (Tanker & Bingöl 1984). There are two species native in Turkey. *H. orientalis* Lam. has a very widespread distribution in North Anatolia. It grows in forest clearing and in the understorey. *H. vesicarius* Aucher is an endemic species in Southern Anatolia distributed in the Amanos mountains, around Adıyaman, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş and in the Gaziantep province (Davis 1965).

*Helleborus orientalis* is called "Bohça otu, Kara çöpleme, Siyah harbak, Boynuz otu, Danabağırtan or Danakıran" in Turkey. It is poisonous and used in veterinary medicine (Tanker & Bingöl 1984, Kültür 2007).

*Ramularia hellebori* was recorded on *Helleborus* in Turkey (Lohwag 1963). *Pirottaea veneta* and *Microsphaeropsis hellebori* were previously unknown in Turkey. *Ramularia*

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