

Hepatica nobilis var. obtusa

Hepatica americana

Round-lobed Hepatica, American Liverwort

Unlike its sister variety of `Acuta`, it has round lobed leaves. It also appears with stronger pubescence at budbreak. The leaves often have a very beautiful dark pattern (marbling). The habit is more stocky, the flowers are smaller. Their requirement for soil conditions is slightly acidic. Nevertheless, they often occur in one location with *H. nobilis* var. *acuta*. See the distribution of locations and colors under *H. nobilis* var. *acuta*, according to Julian A. Steyermark it is the same for both varieties. The following results were obtained by Dr. O. J. Eigsti and Dr. Albert S. Rouffa on these two taxomes; results in extracts:

H. nobilis var. *acuta*

sepal length : 9 - 13 mm = 11,60 mm

sepal width : 5,5 - 8 mm = 6,50 mm

petal length : 9 - 17 mm = 12,30 mm

petal width : 7,5 - 9 mm = 7,25 mm

H. nobilis var. *obtusa*

sepal length : 11 - 14 mm = 12,50 mm

sepal width : 4 - 8 mm = 6,75 mm

petal length : 7 - 18 mm = 11,40 mm

petal width : 4 - 9 mm = 5,95 mm

H. nobilis var. *acuta* x *obtusa* (bastards)

sepal length : 11 - 14 mm = 12,50 mm

sepal width : 5,5 - 10 mm = 7,15 mm

petal length : 9 - 14 mm = 11,40 mm

petal width : 4,5 - 9 mm = 6,65 mm

The differences arise from this, although they are often small characteristics.

Known varieties from *H. nobilis* var. *obtusa*:

`Eco Blue Harlequin`, fantastically marbled, blue

`Eco Indigo`, darkest blue

`Eco Tetra Blue`, deep blue, flower size $1\frac{1}{2}$ times larger than normal, probably tetraploid

`Eco Pink`, pink-pink

Eco = Don Jakobs of Eco Gardens, Decatur, GA.

`Blue Beauty`, midnight blue with long, yellow pollen tubes

`Crockers Jewel`, red, large flowered

last mentioned are from Siskiyou, Rare Plant Nursery, Medford, Oregon



`Alba Marmorata`



`Blue Beauty`



`Crockers Jewel`



Austrieb



Overview and current status (2008)

von Julian A. Steyermark & Cora S. Steyermark über

Hepatica nobilis var. *nobilis*

Hepatica nobilis var. *acuta*

Hepatica nobilis var. *obtusata*

In a comparative study of `Genus Hepatica` in Europe and North America, it has been found that many overlaps of mass of sepals and petals have been encountered. Furthermore, there seems to be no difference in the archae of European and North American plants. In general me, it can be stated that the American Hepatica have narrower petals on average than the European ones and that the sepals of the American Hepatica are on average larger in length and width than those in *H. nobilis* var. *nobilis*. The petioles and stems of European are less hairy than those of American Hepatica. The stems of the European are longer on average than those of the American relatives at flowering. The European *H. nobilis* shows similar variation in terms of differences in lobe tips as the American material, although not quite as accentuated. The variations in lobe tips in the American plants appear to correlate with similar variations in sepal tips. Apart from such differences and the related leaf shapes and proportions of the leaf lobes to the wholeness of the leaf, there is little else to help distinguish characteristics among the American taxomes. Since the differences in the relative length and width of the sepals and petals are measurable, it is believed that the American taxomes should be distinguished from the European, but as special varieties rather than as separate species. It would be reasonable with the natural classification to group the European and American taxomes under *H. nobilis*. The European plants should be distinguished according to acute- and round-lobed forms of *H. nobilis* var. *nobilis*, whereas the American plants should be distinguished as varieties of *H. nobilis*.

It is therefore suggested that the name of the European species *H. nobilis*, as the oldest existing valid species name for the group in question, should include the later described American plants.

As such, the American plants are considered here as varieties of the widely distributed species *H. nobilis*.

Hepatica nobilis var. *nobilis* becomes the name of the widely distributed European species,

H. nobilis var. *acuta* and *H. nobilis* var. *obtusata* will be the names of the American plants, these previously ran under the names *H. acutiloba* and *H. americana*.



`Blue Harlekin`



junges Blatt



`Dark Blue`



`Pink`