

Hepatica nobilis var. *nobilis* f. *marmorata*

Marmorata, light spots on the leaves, occur among almost all *Hepatica* species. Among the European species, it is especially *H. nobilis* var. *nobilis* f. *pyrenaica* that is known to produce good marbled types. Otherwise, these types can also be found at Lake Garda or in Abruzzo. For what reasons the *Hepatica* has these spots in its leaves is not yet completely clear. Therefore, there are several conjectures:

- 1) Soil conditions could be the trigger, it is said that on acid soils the percentage is greater!
- 2) Protective function of the leaves in case of too much sun. This is supported by the fact that the larger proportion of types was found mainly in southern, warmer regions!
- 3) Trigger could be also genetic malfunctions, these are inherited, however, also.

After my experience with these erratic blocks and its origin, I would consider the leaf spots as a protective function against too much UV light. In the north (Scandinavia) one finds as good as no marbling. Towards the south (Mediterranean) the population is increasing, also the higher the location. Since we find this marbling in all species, scholars should take a closer look this time, because speculating does not give a final clarification.



Fundort Gardasee



H. nobilis var. *acuta*



H. nobilis var. *obtusa*



Fundort Pyrenäen



H. yamatutai f. *marmorata*



H. nobilis var. *insularis*



H. transsilvanica x *H. nobilis* v. *acuta*