# Abstract

The endemic species of the Czech Republic still present a hot topic. Effective research of this topic means understanding of factors which create and influence endemism. With the exception of the Alps and the Carpathians, endemics are relatively very rare in Central Europe. In the Czech Republic they are concentrated mainly in subalpine (alpine) areas in the High Sudetes. Majority of the Czech endemics is of relatively recent origin. They have not well differentiated yet and so it is difficult to taxonomically evaluate them. Endemics of the High Sudetes have probably originated in Holocene with the exception of apomicts, e.g. species of genus *Hieracium*, which have likely originated even earlier. The origin of most of the Sudetes endemics was possible due to geographic isolation of small populations called peripatric speciation. Peripatric speciation is probably responsible for the origin of taxonomically uncertain endemic species *Primula elatior* subsp*. corcontica,* which is a subspecies of highly variable *P. elatior.* In the Czech Republic occur three subspecies of *P. elatior* – subsp. *corcontica*, subsp. *elatior* and subsp. *tatrensis.* These subspecies are differentiated in the morphology of leaves and in their distribution. The description of *P. elatior* subsp*. corcontica* was based on morphological characterization and allopatry. Modern morphometric and molecular methods should prove if it represents an evolutionary lineage or not.



**Key words:** endemism, speciation, *Primula elatior,* High Sudetes, evolutionary history