



Lectotypification of the Linnaean name *Acanthus spinosus* (Acanthaceae)

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The genus *Acanthus* Linnaeus (1753: 639) (Acanthaceae) is composed of 20 species distributed in Africa, southern Europe, southern Asia, and Australasia (McDade *et al.* 2005). Linnaeus (1753, 1756) published 5 names under *Acanthus* [*A. dioscoridis* Linnaeus (1756: 23), *A. ilicifolius* Linnaeus (1753: 639), *A. maderaspatensis* Linnaeus (1753: 639), *A. mollis* Linnaeus (1753: 639), *A. spinosus* Linnaeus (1753: 639)] of which two are currently referred to other genera (Jarvis 2007): *A. ilicifolius* L. is now accepted under *Dilivaria* Jussieu (1789: 103) as *D. ilicifolia* (L.) Jussieu (1789: 103), *A. maderaspatensis* L. under *Blepharis* Jussieu (1789: 103) as *B. maderaspatensis* (L.) Roth (1821: 320). One of these names, concerning the European flora, appears to be yet untypified, and it is therefore investigated here. *Acanthus spinosus* is known in mediterranean and south-eastern Europe (Italy, Croatia, Albania, Bulgaria, Crete, East Aegean islands, Greece), the Asiatic Turkey as well as in Algeria, and is currently accepted at specific rank (e.g., Marhold 2011).

Linnaeus' protologue (Linnaeus 1753, see Fig. 1) consists of a diagnosis, taken directly from Linnaeus (1738: 326) and Royen (1740: 304), with two synonyms cited from Bauhin (1623: 383) and Dodoens (1616: 719).

1. ACANTHUS foliis pinnatifidis spinosis. *Hort. cliff. spinosus*,
326. *Roy. lugdb.* 304.
Acanthus aculeatus. *Baub. pin.* 383.
Acanthus fylvestris. *Dod. pempt.* 719.
Habitat in Italiæ bucentibus. 2

FIGURE 1. Protologue of *Acanthus spinosus* by Linnaeus (1753: 639).

The illustration in one of these references (Dodoens, under «*Acanthus silvestris*») matches well with the original description by Linnaeus and it can be considered for lectotypification of *Acanthus spinosus*.

In the Linnaean Herbarium at LINN there is a sheet (No. 816.4), but lacking any annotation concerning the Species Plantarum numbering, it can be considered a post-1753 addition to the collection and therefore not as original material for the name. Moreover, the specimen lacks the leaves, whose characteristics (see protologue in Fig. 1) mark the Linnaean concept of the species.

In the Herbarium Clifford there is one sheet (barcode BM000646247) that bears a plant certainly identifiable as *A. spinosus*; the phrase name («*Acanthus aculeatus*...») refers to Bauhin (1623).

Also in the Herbarium Burser, connected with the Linnaeus citations of Bauhin (Jarvis 2007), a specimen labelled as "*Acanthus aculeatus*" was traced [Herb. Burser XXI: 48 (UPS)]. This herbarium sheet is original material, too.

We have been unable to trace any further original material in any of the other Linnaean and Linnaean-linked herbaria (Jarvis 2007). Indeed, no material was found in Herb. van Royen (L).

All the elements here considered as original material show the leaves (pinnatifid) that mark a part of the Linnaean concept of the species («*foliis pinnatifidis*...»). As regards the presence of spines [Linnaeus (1753) reports «*foliis...spinosus*»), the image by Dodoens (1616) could be ambiguous, showing leaves with the apices