



Correspondence

Revised lectotypification of the name *Calendula maritima* (Asteraceae)

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Calendula maritima Gussone (1825: 3) is endemic to a few coastal areas near Trapani, western Sicily, Italy. Its taxonomic distinctness is generally recognised, even though some authors have treated it as a subspecies rather than species, either as *C. incana* subsp. *maritima* (Guss.) Ohle (1974: 279) or as *C. suffruticosa* subsp. *maritima* (Guss.) Meikle (1976: 274), its uncertain position reflecting the difficulty in establishing a satisfactory taxonomic classification within the highly diverse genus *Calendula* Linnaeus (1753: 921). *Calendula maritima* has recently been included in an IUCN pilot project devoted to the study of the fifty most threatened Mediterranean island plants (Montmollin & Strahm 2005) and, in that context, it has been made the central subject of a special international meeting (Troia & Raimondo 2011).

Calendula maritima was one of the early species described by Giovanni Gussone (1787–1866), whose main works regarding Sicily and its surrounding islets were ‘*Florae Siculae Prodrromus*’ (1827–28) and ‘*Florae Siculae Synopsis*’ (1842–44) (Stafleu & Cowan 1976). The protologue of *C. maritima* (Gussone 1825) consists of a brief diagnostic description but lacks any indication of the type locality: ‘*C. incanae*, pro qua habui, et *C. marginatae* Willd. en. proxima; sed foliis integerrimis et viscositate omnium partium, quae cultura perstat, ab utraque distincta’. In the following years, Gussone sent specimens of the new species to several colleagues and friends all over Europe. Candolle (1838) accepted *C. maritima* Guss. and mentioned the locality where it occurs: ‘in Sicilia circa Trapaniam’. Gussone (1844) eventually listed the places in which he had found *C. maritima*: Trapani, the nearby islands of Ronciglio and Formiche, Mt. Cofano, and S. Vito.

In his seminal revision of the perennial *Calendula* species of southern Europe, Ohle (1974) stated the type (‘Typus’) of *C. maritima* in the following terms: ‘Sizilien, Ronciglio bei Trapani, leg. Gussone 1824 (FI)’. Under the ‘Code’ (McNeill *et al.* 2012: Art. 9.8) that statement is equivalent to a lectotype designation.

Unfortunately, a search of the FI herbarium—with the kind and expert help of the curator, Chiara Nepi—failed to locate any such specimen (or indeed any specimen of *C. maritima* collected by Gussone). It is not certain that Ohle had actually seen the FI specimen he cited; he might only have inferred that the type was kept at FI, a hypothesis supported by the fact that he did not again include that specimen among the ‘specimina visa’ (= specimens seen), as he used to do for other type specimens he mentioned in the same paper.

According to the ‘Code’ (McNeill *et al.* 2012: Art. 9.11), if “the previously designated lectotype has been lost or destroyed [supposing it ever existed], a new lectotype may be designated”. Doing so is the purpose of the present note.

Relevant herbarium material kept in BOLO, FI, NAP, PAL has been studied. In addition, we also checked some herbarium holdings available via the internet: B, BM, G, P, Z or on microfiche (G–DC) (acronyms according to Thiers 2012). Gussone’s handwriting was identified by comparison with published samples (Burdet 1975).