



ABSTRACTS OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE GROUP OF EUROPEAN CHAROPHYTOLOGISTS (GEC)

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New findings for the charophyte flora of Sicily (Italy)

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The charophyte flora of Sicily is surely understudied and not well known. After some occasional studies made between the end of XIX and the beginning of XX century (Ross 1905; Formiggini 1908), new investigations were reprised in the XXI century. A first contribution was made by Damino (2004), which unfortunately did not result in publications and had no continuation. However it has been used for the updated charophyte flora of Italy (Bazzichelli, Abdelahad 2009).

In 2017 the first author reprised the investigations of the Characean flora of the island. In a first contribution (Romanov et al. 2019) new findings were reported, including new species for the island and for the whole Italy, and a synthesis of the knowledge, resulting in 25 species reported (even if during a long period) for the island. In the frame of current investigations, we report here a couple of new findings; the names of the reported species follow Mouronval et al. (2015).

Chara connivens A. Braun – new for Sicily. Found in a single site in central Sicily, in a temporary pond with long hydroperiod, shallow waters and low salinity (EC = 3.6 mS cm⁻¹, TDS = 1.8 g L⁻¹). Not reported in the rest of Italy, but recently found in few sites in Sardinia (Becker 2019).

Chara intermedia A. Braun – new for Sicily. Found in two different sites in inland Sicily, in different habitats with permanent waters, this taxon (already reported for Italy and Sardinia) is considered “critical” because part of a “species complex” including *Chara baltica* Bruzelius.

The new findings are illustrated with photographs of the main morphological diagnostic characters and the habitats.

Further taxonomic investigations on these Sicilian populations are underway.

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