

## Taxonomic remarks and distribution of *Smyrniium dimartinoi* (*Apiaceae*)

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*Smyrniium* L., an Eurasian genus of the family *Apiaceae*, includes about 20 taxa of which only 7 are accepted at specific rank; among these, 5 are native to Europe (Tutin & al. 1968; Gomez 2003). In the Italian flora, the genus is represented by 3 taxa also occurring in Sicily (Pignatti 1982; Giardina & al. 2007); these are *Smyrniium olusatrum* L., *S. perfoliatum* L. and *S. rotundifolium* Mill. The last one has also been treated at the rank of subspecies under *S. perfoliatum* [*S. perfoliatum* subsp. *rotundifolium* (Mill.) Hartvig] (Strid 1986; Conti & al. 2005), or as a variety [*S. perfoliatum* var. *rotundifolium* (Mill.) Fiori (Fiori 1925)]. In Sicily, same populations related to *S. perfoliatum* differ from this taxon for both morphological and ecological characteristics, especially on the Madonie Mountains and the Mountains around Palermo.

The study of the morphological characteristics – namely of the root, stem, and leaf – allowed to clearly distinguish these populations that, therefore, represented a taxonomically and perhaps even chorologically critical case, since similar plants occurring in Greece were described as *S. rotundifolium* var. *ovatifolium* Halácsy (Halácsy 1901). In Sicily the same population was finally described as a new species named *Smyrniium dimartinoi* (Raimondo et al., 2015) to commemorate Andrea Di Martino (1926-2009), professor of botany and director of the Botanical Garden and Herbarium Mediterraneum in the Palermo University.

The occurrence of the new taxon related to *S. perfoliatum* – ascertained only in Central-Western Sicily and in Crete – has also been supposed in other countries of the Mediterranean Europe; this, owing to some critical specimens observed in PAL and PAL-Gr.

In this contribution, the analytical key of *S. perfoliatum* group is presented. Furthermore, the geographical distribution of *S. dimartinoi* is specified after the study of selected exsiccata from other Italian and foreign herbaria. The results found in this research show that *S. dimartinoi* belongs to the Eurimediterranean element, spread in various countries of the Southern Europe, from Greece to Italy and Spain.

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