Charybdis glaucophylla (Asparagaceae), a new species from Sardinia

GIANLUIGI BACCHETTA1*, SALVATORE BRULLO2, SAVERIO D’EMERICO3, CRISTIANO PONTECORVO1 & CRISTINA SALMERI4

1Centro Conservazione Biodiversità (CCB), Dipartimento di Scienze della Vita e dell’Ambiente, Università degli Studi di Cagliari, Viale S. Ignazio da Laconi 11-13, I 09123 Cagliari, Italy, e-mail: bacchet@unica.it
2Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche ed Ambientali, Università degli Studi di Catania, Via A. Longo 19, I 95125 Catania, Italy, e-mail: salvo.brullo@gmail.com
3Dipartimento di Biologia e Patologia Vegetale, Università di Bari, Via Orabona, 4, I 70125 Bari, Italy.
4Dipartimento di Biologia ambientale e Biodiversità, Università degli Studi di Palermo, Via Archirafi 38, I 90123 Palermo, Italy, e-mail: cristinamaria.salmeri@unipa.it
* author for correspondence

Abstract

Charybdis glaucophylla (Asparagaceae), a new species from Sardinia, is described and illustrated. It is a diploid species with 2n = 20 chromosomes growing along the rocky coast, sandy dunes and mountain top in the south-western part of the island. Within the genus, this species results taxonomically well isolated and differentiated due to relevant morphological and phenological features, such as the leaves wide and short, very rigid and glaucous-pruinose, as well as the very late foliation (winter). It shows only some relationships with C. pancration for the whitish bulb tunics and the diploid chromosome complement, and with C. maura and C. aphylla due to the glaucous leaves.

Key words: endemic flora, karyology, Mediterranean Basin, Sardinia, taxonomy, Urginea

Introduction


Typical populations of C. maritima s. str. are hexaploid (2n = 60) and occur in the Iberian peninsula and NW Morocco (Talavera et al. 1995, Pfosser & Speta 2004). They are characterized by bulb whitish tunics, green, very long, narrowly lanceolate and acute leaves, tepals with purplish midrib. Tetraploid populations (2n = 40) are usually attributed to C. hesperia (Webb & Berthelot 1848: 339) Speta (1998: 60), C. numidica (Jordan & Fourreau 1869: 1) Speta (1998: 60) and C. aphylla (Forsskal 1775: 209) Speta (1998: 60) (Pfosser & Speta 2004). The latter taxa are geographically and morphologically well distinct; C. hesperia is restricted to the Canary Islands and N Morocco and shows bulb tunics white-greenish and roots whitish, leaves green, very long, narrowly lanceolate and acute, tepals with dark purplish midrib. C. numidica is distributed in the CW Mediterranean area and shows reddish bulb tunics and whitish roots, green-glaucous, wide and oblong