



Article

Charybdis glaucophylla (Asparagaceae), a new species from Sardinia

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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. pancraticum* 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

The genus *Charybdis* Speta (1998: 58) is typified by *Scilla maritima* Linnaeus (1753: 308) [\equiv *Urginea maritima* (L.) Baker (1873: 221); *Charybdis maritima* (L.) Speta (1998: 60)]. This species is reported throughout the Mediterranean area by the main floras (Maire 1958, Chouard & Guinochet 1978, El-Gadi 1978, McNeill 1980, Pignatti 1982, Edmondson 1984, Meikle 1985, Feinbrun-Dothan 1986, Pastor 1987, Amaral Franco & Rocha Alfonso 1994, Juan 2002, Boulos 2005, Tison 2007). *C. maritima* indeed represents a species complex well differentiated in several morphologically, karyologically and genetically distinct populations, as many authors highlighted (Martinoli 1949, Battaglia 1957a, 1957b, 1964, Maugini 1953, 1956, 1960, Maugini & Bini Maleci 1974, Speta 1980, 1998, 2001, Pfosser & Speta 1999, 2004, Boscaiu *et al.* 2003, Rosselló *et al.* 2005).

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