

Article



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Campanula martinii (Campanulaceae), a new species from northern Italy

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Abstract

Campanula martinii a new species in the C. rotundifolia species complex, is here described. C. martinii is seemingly endemic to dolomitic cliffs and rocky places of the Prealps in Lombardia and Trentino-Alto Adige (northern Italy). The plants are robust with long hypogeal stolons, papillose ovary and patent to reflexed calyx teeth. This species is hexaploid with chromosome number 2n = 102. The taxonomic and phylogenetic placement of the new species is briefly discussed.

Key words: Alps, Campanula sect. Heterophylla, cytogeography

Introduction

The *Campanula rotundifolia* species complex in Europe is an aggregate of approximately 50 species that belong to sect. *Heterophylla* (Witasek 1902: 8) Tzvelev (2000: 680). Several of these species occur in the Prealps of Brescia in northern Italy (Fig. 1) but their detailed distribution is still controversial and a comprehensive census within this complex is still lacking. Based on floristic treatments and other contributions, we have found in this area records of *C. rotundifolia* Linnaeus (1753: 163), *C. macrorhiza* Candolle (1830: 301) and *C. bertolae* Colla (1835: 24).

Additionally, within sect. *Heterophylla* records of *C. carnica* Schiede ex Mertens & Koch (1826: 158), *C. marchesettii* Witasek (1902: 32) and *C. witasekiana* Vierhapper (1906: 72) are cited for some areas of northeastern Italy. Specifically, *C. carnica* is endemic to the eastern Alps from Lombardia to Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Aeschimann *et al.* 2004, Conti *et al.* 2005), although Pignatti (1982) wrongly indicated its occurrence in Valle d'Aosta, an error later amended by Pistarino (2001). *C. marchesettii*, endemic to the Illyrian area, seemingly recorded from Trentino (Pignatti 1982), in reality has its northwestern-most distribution range in Slovenia, in Mount Nanos and Mount Sabotino (Dakskobler & Poldini 1996, Conti *et al.* 2005). Finally, *C. witasekiana* is distributed in the mountainous regions of SE Europe, including Trentino-Alto Adige and Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Aeschimann *et al.* 2004, Conti *et al.* 2005).

C. rotundifolia occurs in every region of northern Italy, in addition to Toscana and Marche (Conti *et al.* 2005); the numerous records found in the literature for the Brescia and Bergamo areas are largely accurate, as confirmed by observations in the field.

C. macrorhiza was described from the Maritime Alps and "prope San Marco in Piceno seu Calabria" (Eremo di San Marco near Ascoli Piceno or in Calabria) and its occurrence in the central-eastern part of the Prealps of Lombardia in addition to the central Apennine was cited in the literature by several authors including Rota (1853), Arcangeli (1882), Tanfani (1888), Rodegher & Venanzi (1894), Ugolini (1897), Fiori & Béguinot (1903), Fiori (1927), Arietti (1943), and Arietti & Crescini (1966). On the other hand, Cesati et al.

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