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Typification of the Linnaean name Aphyllanthes monspeliensis (Asparagaceae)

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The monotypic genus Aphyllanthes Linnaeus (1753: 294) (Asparagaceae Juss.) is distributed through the Western Mediterranean region, from Northern Africa (Algeria, Libya, Morocco) to Southeastern and Southwestern Europe (Italy, Balearic Islands, France, Portugal, Sardegna and Spain) (Webb 1980, Rico 2013).

The Linnaean name Aphyllanthes monspeliensis (1753: 294) appears to be yet untypified (see Jarvis 2007: 307), and it is here investigated as part of the Ph.D. studies of the author (see e.g., Ferrer-Gallego et al. 2014, Ferrer-Gallego 2015a, 2015b).

Typification of the name

Linnaeus's protologue (1753: 294) of Aphyllanthes monspeliensis quotes earlier Linnaean work (Linnaeus 1738: 493) and Sauvages (1751: 8), and two synonyms cited from Lobelius (1570: 190) and Bauhin & Cherler (1651: 336) as "Aphyllanthes monspeliensium", and from Bauhin (1623: 209) and Morison (1680: 562, f. 5, t. 25, f. 12) as "Caryophyllus caeruleus monspeliensium"; the provenance ("Habitat Monspelii prope Castelneuf locis montosis saxosis sterilibus") was also provided.

According to Jarvis (2007: 307), original material are the Lobelius's and Morison's illustrations (images available respectively at: http://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es/spa/Libro.php?Libro=4137&Hojas=, and http://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es/spa/ Libro.php?Libro=5551&Hojas=) and two herbarium sheets: Herb. Linn. No. 418.1 (LINN) (image available at http:// linnean-online.org/5155/) and Herb. Burser XI: 97 (UPS-Burser). The specimen in the Linnaean Herbarium at LINN bears the original Linnaeus' annotation "1 monspeliensis", explicitly referring to the number of the species account of A. monspeliensis in Species Plantarum (Linnaeus 1753: 294) (see Stearn 1957, Jarvis 2007). The specimen bears a plant with two stems including leaves, and one flower without fruit.

The sheet preserved at UPS (Herb. Burser XI: 97) bears a fragment of plant and a label with the annotation "Caryophyllus caeruleus monspeliensium / Pin. Bauh. / Aphyllanthes monspeliensium / Monspelii spontii / 97", the first two scripts matching the synonyms cited by Linnaeus in the protologue from Bauhin (1623: 209) and Bauhin & Cherler (1651: 336). That herbarium was in Uppsala when it was used by Linnaeus for the interpretation of the names appearing in Bauhin's work. A manuscript at LINN (transcribed by Savage) records that the material in XI: 97 was identified by Linnaeus as Aphyllanthes monspeliensis (Savage 1937: 35). All things stated, this specimen is undoubtedly part of the original material.

A further sheet was found at S-LINN (Herb. Linn. No. 137.15, image available at: http://linnaeus.nrm.se/botany/ fbo/a/aphyl/aphymon.html.en). This specimen bears the annotation (on the back) "Aphyllanthes monspeliensis Linn. / Dahl a Linné f." (by A. Dahl), and "Herb. Alstroemerii". This specimen includes a fragment with flowers, but it is probably a post-1753 addition to the collection. Therefore, it cannot be regarded as original material for the name.

We have been unable to trace any further original material in any of the other Linnaean and Linnaean-linked herbaria.

Although all the original material traced, including the illustrations from Lobelius (1570: 190) and Morison (1680: 562, f. 5, t. 25, f. 12), and herbarium specimens at UPS and LINN are certainly identifiable with the traditional concept and current use of the Linnaean name A. monspeliensis (see Webb 1980, Conran 1998), we prefer to designate the more complete specimen in the Burser herbarium at UPS as the lectotype.