

Euro+Med-Checklist Notulae, 18

Eckhard von Raab-Straube (†) & Thomas Raus¹ (ed.)

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Abstract: This is the eighteenth of a series of miscellaneous contributions, by various authors, where hitherto unpublished data relevant to both the Med-Checklist and the Euro+Med (or Sisypheus) projects are presented. This instalment deals with the families *Acanthaceae*, *Amaranthaceae*, *Araliaceae*, *Boraginaceae*, *Celastraceae*, *Chenopodiaceae*, *Compositae*, *Cruciferae*, *Cucurbitaceae*, *Cupressaceae*, *Cyperaceae*, *Euphorbiaceae*, *Gramineae*, *Grossulariaceae*, *Labiatae*, *Leguminosae*, *Martyniaceae*, *Orobanchaceae*, *Passifloraceae*, *Pedaliaceae*, *Plantaginaceae*, *Portulacaceae*, *Potamogetonaceae*, *Primulaceae*, *Proteaceae*, *Rubiaceae* and *Sapindaceae*. It includes new country and area records and taxonomic and distributional considerations for taxa in *Alkanna*, *Amaranthus*, *Cardamine*, *Carex*, *Celastrus*, *Centaurea*, *Chenopodium*, *Cyperus*, *Danthonia*, *Deschampsia*, *Dittrichia*, *Dodonaea*, *Euphorbia*, *Galium*, *Grevillea*, *Hieracium*, *Ibicella*, *Kalopanax*, *Metasequoia*, *Moluccella*, *Orobanche*, *Paspalum*, *Passiflora*, *Phelipanche*, *Phragmites*, *Portulaca*, *Potamogeton*, *Ribes*, *Ruellia*, *Salicornia*, *Salsola*, *Sesamum*, *Setaria*, *Sonchus*, *Thladiantha*, *Verbesina*, *Veronica* and *Vicia*, new combinations in *Bromus* and a new name in *Lysimachia*.

Keywords: distribution, Euro+Med PlantBase, Europe, Med-Checklist, Mediterranean, new combination, new name, new record, taxonomy, vascular plants

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Notice

A succinct description of the Euro+Med project, with a list of recognized territories and their abbreviations, and the conventions used to indicate the status and presence of taxa, can be found in the introduction to the first instalment of the Euro+Med Notulae (Greuter & Raab-Straube 2005: 223–226) and on the Euro+Med PlantBase website (Euro+Med 2006+). For the previous instalment of the Euro+Med-Checklist Notulae, see Raab-Straube & Raus (2024).

Eckhard von Raab-Straube (born 19 August 1967) lost his life in a tragic traffic accident on 8 July 2024, in the midst of life and full of plans and merits for the taxonomy and phytogeography of the European and circum-Mediterranean plant world. He will always be gratefully remembered by the scientific community as an outstanding taxonomist and experienced networker, as his many

influential publications prove (Botanischer Garten Berlin 2024). Since June 2013 he served as the Corresponding Co-Editor of the Euro+Med-Checklist Notulae series – for a scientifically successful decade that was abruptly terminated by a terrible stroke of fate.

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Acanthaceae

Ruellia simplex C. Wright (= *R. brittoniana* Leonard; = *R. coerulea* Morong; = *R. malacosperma* Greenm.; = *R. tweediana* Griseb.) – Fig. 1.

A Tn: Tunisia: Wilayah of Zaghouan, El Fahs, 36°23'N, 09°55'E, 180 m, by roadsides, 11 Oct 2018, *El Mokni*

(Herb. Univ. Monastir); *ibid.*, Wilayah of Monastir, Monastir City, 35°46'N, 10°49'E, 20 m, by roadsides near public gardens, 27 Oct 2022, *El Mokni* (Herb. Univ. Monastir). – *Ruellia simplex*, commonly known as “Mexican petunia” or “Mexican bluebell”, is native to Mexico, the Antilles (first described from Cuba), W Bolivia, SW Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and NE Argentina. From its disjunct occurrences it had been described several times as a species new to science; all those taxa, however, finally proved to be conspecific (Fernald 1945; Ezcurra & Daniel 2007. According to Turland & al. (2018: Art. 60.8 and 60.9), the spelling of the published epithets “*tweediana*” and “*tweedyana*” is correctable to *tweediana*, commemorating John Tweedie, 1775–1862 (Coats 1969: 357–359). The species was introduced to Florida in the 1930s (Hupp & al. 2009) and since then has become a very popular landscape plant appreciated for its prolific flowering and low maintenance requirements (Gilman 1999). Due to its ability to grow in a wide range of environmental conditions, from wetlands to almost xeric (Hupp & al. 2009), the high average of seeds produced per capsule and the high germination rate (98–100% under ideal conditions of 30°C day and 20°C night, Wilson & Mecca 2003), the species has naturalized in disturbed uplands and wetlands of the S United States and Hawaii (Wunderlin & al. 2024). In the Mediterranean region the species is reported as casual only from Italy (Iamonico 2022; Galasso & al. 2024: 301) and is not yet listed in The Euro+Med PlantBase (Marhold 2011a+). The African Plant Database (APD 2024b) lists the taxon merely as cultivated without specifying individual regions. Our report of *R. simplex* as a casual alien from Tunisia, locally escaped from ornamental cultivation, is the first for the African xenophytic flora. R. El Mokni & Th. Raus

Amaranthaceae

Amaranthus crispus (Lesp. & Thévenau) A. Braun ex J. M. Coult. & S. Watson

– **Cm:** This name was erroneously applied to alien plants found in Feodosiya (E Crimea) in 2012 (Yena & Savchuk 2013). After re-examination of the collection, *Amaranthus crispus* is to be excluded from the Crimean flora, because this and subsequent records for this region (Iamonico 2015+; POWO 2024a), which are based on the publication mentioned above, are to be referred to *A. deflexus* L. The specimen in the Moscow Digital Herbarium (Seregin 2024), collected in Sevastopol in 2017 and designated as “*A. crispus*” (available at <https://plant.depo.msu.ru/public/scan.jpg?pcode=MW0599937>), should be referred to *A. deflexus* as well. The photograph of the Feodosiya collection was discussed by botanists and amateurs on the Plantarium forum in 2013 (Plantarium 2007–2024), the name *A. deflexus* already then having been approved as correct. Therefore, there are still 10 species of the genus *Amaranthus* in the Crimean flora (Yena 2012). In fact, Transcarpathian Ukraine (at Mukachevo



Fig. 1. *Ruellia simplex* – A: habit and habitat; B: apical part of flowering stem with flower. – Tunisia, Monastir, Monastir city, 27 Oct 2022, photographs by R. El Mokni.

and Uzhgorod) is the only region of the European part of the former USSR where *A. crispus* can be met with as a very rare alien plant (Mosyakin 2006: 12–13; Chopyk & Fedoronchuk 2015; Iamonico 2015+), but influential global plant databases (GBIF 2023a, sub *A. crispus* (Lesp. & Thévenau) N. Terracc.; POWO 2024a) do not map the species from this region. The specimen of *A. crispus* from Uzhgorod is available at <https://plant.depo.msu.ru/public/scan.jpg?pcode=MHA0118228> (Seregin 2024).

A. V. Yena

hypericifolia L. (Strid 61794, UPA), another alien that appears to be spreading in the S Aegean area (see Muer & al. 2024). *Amaranthus dubius* is very close to *A. spinosus* and differs from it, apart from the absence of spines, almost only by the distribution of the sexes in the inflorescence (not separated in a basal female and an apical male portion as in the latter) and by blunt (not acute or spiny-tipped) female perianth segments (Thellung 1914).

Th. Raus & A. Strid

Araliaceae

Amaranthus dubius Mart. ex Thell. – Fig. 2.

A Cr: Greece, Kriti (Crete): Nomos of Chania, Eparchia of Sfakia, lower entrance of Imbros gorge, 35°11'N, 24°10'E, 70 m, ruderal habitat by a chapel, plants erect, to 80 cm tall, 29 Oct 2023, Strid 61793 (B, as *Amaranthus powellii* S. Watson, det. Th. Raus). – First record from Greece of this casual amaranth with thin, sometimes flexuous, whitish green, leafless terminal pseudo-spikes, bracts shorter than perianth, and circumscissile fruits. It is native to Central America, the Caribbean and NW South America S to Bolivia, introduced into C and E Africa, SW Asia, China and part of the Pacific islands, and commonly used as vegetable crop in the tropics. In Europe, it has been reported in France (Thellung 1912), Germany (Aellen 1959), and recently Bulgaria (Delipavlov & Cheshmedzhiev 2011) as an infrequent introduction from several sources, especially waste of imported cocoa, coffee, citrus fruits, wool, cotton, and birdseed. In the Cretan locality, *A. dubius* was the dominant plant in a small, fenced area of c. 5 × 5 m. The only other species collected with it was *Euphorbia*

hypericifolia L. (Strid 61794, UPA), another alien that appears to be spreading in the S Aegean area (see Muer & al. 2024). *Amaranthus dubius* is very close to *A. spinosus* and differs from it, apart from the absence of spines, almost only by the distribution of the sexes in the inflorescence (not separated in a basal female and an apical male portion as in the latter) and by blunt (not acute or spiny-tipped) female perianth segments (Thellung 1914).

A Uk: Ukraine: Zakarpattia Oblast, Mukachevo Raion, NW outskirts of Berezhynka village, in *Fagus* forest near the Berezhynka Arboretum, 48.418451°N, 22.785902°E, 173 m, single spontaneous 3-year-old sapling, 2 May 2024, Shynder & Shevera (KWH 104917). – This is the first record of the taxon from Ukraine outside of cultivation. It is native to E Asia (China, Korea, Japan, Russian Far East) and is only cultivated in temperate Europe and North America (Poletiko 1960; GBIF 2024f). In Ukraine, it is rarely cultivated in some botanical gardens and parks; single trees were reported in the regions of Chernihiv, Kharkiv, Kyiv City, Lviv, Ternopil, Zhytomyr, and in Crimea, but cultivation was not always successful (Poletiko 1960; Kokhno & Trofymenko 2005; Melnyk & al. 2011). Recently, self-seeding was recorded near adult plants of *K. septemlobus* in the botanical garden of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences in Kyiv City (Kolesnichenko & al. 2010). Zakarpattia

Oblast is a region with a warm and humid climate, which is favourable for this species, but there are no published or other data on its cultivation in that region (Fodor 1974; Kokhno & Trofymenko 2005). However, we were able to find out that *K. septemlobus* has been cultivated for more than 20 years in the Berezyinka Arboretum in the vicinity of Mukachevo. The spontaneous spread into the nearby *Fagus* forest suggests that the species is in the initial stage of naturalization. Currently it is a casual escape from cultivation (ergasiophygyte sec. Ponert 1977) in the flora of Ukraine. O. Shynder & M. Shevera

Boraginaceae

Alkanna orientalis (L.) Boiss.

A Cm: Crimea: Yalta Raion, outskirts of Vidradne village, 44.50416°N, 34.23104°E, 13 m, two plants in bushes on slope above Black Sea coast, on dry degraded soil, 11 May 2012, *Levon* (photos: <https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/192364733>). – This is the first recorded occurrence of the species in Crimea. It is native to the Mediterranean and W Asia, occasionally cultivated as an ornamental plant in W and S Europe (Huber-Morath 1978; Richardson 2011). The species is cultivated in the M. M. Gryshko National Botanical Garden, Kyiv (Rakhmetov & al. 2020). The means of migration of *A. orientalis* into the natural habitat cited above is unknown, but not far from there is the Nikita Botanical Garden, which is assumed to be the place of origin. We therefore consider *A. orientalis* to be a casual escape from cultivation in Crimea (ergasiophygyte sec. Ponert 1977).

O. Shynder & A. Levon

Celastraceae

Celastrus orbiculatus Thunb. – Fig. 4.

N Bu: Bulgaria: W Rhodope Mts, Smolyan district, along main road from Borino village to Dospat town, between Eshekchidere river and crossroad to Zmeitsa village, 41.66146°N, 24.25736°E, 1262 m, coniferous forest, 27 Oct 2023, *Ivanova & Natcheva* (SOM 179185, SOM 179186); *ibid.*, in flower, 18 Jun 2024, *Natcheva* (SOM 179209 female individual, SOM 179210 male individual); *ibid.*, with fruits, 17 Oct 2024, *Natcheva obs.*; S Black Sea Coast, Burgas district, along main road between Lozenets village and Tsarevo town, 42.19540°N, 27.81923°E, 20 m, scrubland and rocks on roadside verge, 21 May 2020, *Stoyanov* (SOM 178639 female individual; SOM 178640 male individual). – *Celastrus orbiculatus* is a species new to the Bulgarian flora. During a field trip on 27 October 2023 in the W Rhodope Mts we noticed woody vines with unlobed, ovate, serrate leaves in yellow autumn color, twining on coniferous trees and identified as *C. orbiculatus*. A search in the herbarium SOM revealed another unpublished collection of this species in flower from the S Black Sea coast floristic region; both male and female plants were collected in the lat-



Fig. 2. *Amaranthus dubius*, young inflorescence. – Greece, Kriti, Sfakia, lower entrance of Imbros gorge, 29 Oct 2023, photograph by A. Strid.



Fig. 3. *Kalopanax septemlobus*, sapling in *Fagus* forest. – Ukraine, Zakarpattia Oblast, near Berezyinka village, 2 May 2024, photograph by O. Shynder.

ter place. In Bulgaria, the species invades disturbed sites by roads but also natural forest habitats. In the Rhodope Mts population, the species occupied at least 10 trees of *Picea abies* (L.) H. Karst. and *Pinus sylvestris* L. by the road to a height of more than 7–8 m, or it formed dense canopies over small roadside trees along a c. 700 m section, reaching 15–20 m from the road into the forest.