

Two new combinations in *Malva* (Malvaceae)

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Malva micans subsp. *pallescens* (Moris) F. Conti & Bartolucci *comb. nova* and *Malva micans* subsp. *minoricensis* (Cambess.) Bartolucci & F. Conti *comb. nova* are proposed.

According to Fernandes (1968) the distinction between *Lavatera* and *Malva*, on the basis of the epicalyx-segments joined at the base in the former genus, is very unsatisfactory. Recent molecular studies have also shown that the differentiation of these two taxa based on morphological characters is artificial and untenable (Ray 1995, Escobar *et al.* 2009). A molecular study and a reinterpretation of the morphological characters proposed by Ray (1995) emphasized the significance of the fruit morphology and showed a match between that and the molecular phylogeny. Ray (1995) recognized two groups, with the exception of *Navaea phoenicea* (Vent.) Webb & Berthel. (= *Lavatera phoenicea* Vent.), a “lavateroid” group and a “malvoid” group, the latter including species of *Lavatera* and *Malva*. As a result, several species of *Lavatera* belonging to the “malvoid” group have been moved to *Malva* (Ray 1998, Molero & Montserrat 2005, 2006, Iamónico 2010). However that separation is blurred by the existence of taxa with an intermediate fruit morphology (Escobar *et al.* 2009).

At present, there seem to be two alternative ways to solve the taxonomic problem: split *Lavatera* into several genera or merge the “malvoid” and “lavateroid” groups into a single genus, the name *Malva* having the priority. Banfi

et al. (2005) transferred many “lavateroid” species (including the type, *Lavatera trimestris* L.) to *Malva*. Stace (2009, 2010) also followed that view, applying *Malva* in the broad sense (see also <http://alienplantsbelgium.be/search/node/malva>). A disadvantage of this approach is that *Malva* becomes a morphologically very diverse and hardly diagnosable genus (Escobar García *et al.* 2009). However, the advantages of such classification clearly prevail as *Malva* would then be a monophyletic group. In agreement with the recent molecular studies and given the unclear morphological differentiation, it seems more appropriate to use the name *Malva* in its broadest sense.

In a recent taxonomical study, supported by morphological and ecological data, of the *Lavatera triloba* aggregate (Escobar García *et al.* 2010), five taxa were recognized: *L. triloba* L. subsp. *triloba*, *L. triloba* subsp. *minoricensis* (Cambess.) P. Escobar, *L. triloba* subsp. *pallescens* (Moris) Nyman, *L. agrigentina* Tineo and *L. flava* Desf. The *L. triloba* aggregate is a group of perennial herbs or sub-shrubs endemic to the western Mediterranean region (Escobar *et al.* 2009, 2010). For *L. triloba* subsp. *triloba*, *L. agrigentina* and *L. flava* there are existing combinations in *Malva*: *M. micans* (L.) Alef., *M.*

agrigena (Tineo) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso and *M. flava* (Desf.) Alef., respectively. The remaining taxa in the *L. triloba* complex need new combinations in *Malva*.

Malva micans* (L.) Alef. subsp. *pallescens
(Moris) F. Conti & Bartolucci, *comb. nova*

BASIONYM: *Lavatera pallescens* Moris, Fl. Sardoia 1: 301. 1837. — *Lavatera triloba* subsp. *pallescens* (Moris) Nyman, Consp. Fl. Eur.: 128. 1878. — TYPE: [Italy, Sardegna:] Isola di San Pietro. In maritimis. Mjo. Moris 226 (lectotype TO, designated by Escobar *et al.* 2010).

DESCRIPTION: Sub-shrub, sparsely glandular, (50)70–150 cm. Leaves orbicular to oblong, up to 10 × 10 cm, subentire to deeply 3–5(7)-lobed, margin undulate. Upper leaf surface with a dimorphic indumentum of fasciculate long-radiated hairs and sparse glandular hairs. Flower pale, whitish with pink shade; petals (10)20–25 mm, longer than calyx.

Malva micans subsp. *pallescens* is endemic to southwestern Sardinia, and grows on limestone cliffs and scree slopes directly exposed to the sea.

Malva micans* (L.) Alef. subsp. *minoricensis
(Cambess.) Bartolucci & F. Conti, *comb. nova*

BASIONYM: *Lavatera minoricensis* Cambess., Mém. Mus. His. Nat. 14: 334. 1827. — *Malva minoricensis* (Cambess.) J.J. Rodr., Anales Soc. Esp. Hist. Nat. 3: 13. 1874. — *Lavatera triloba* subsp. *minoricensis* (Cambess.) P. Escobar, Anales Jard. Bot. Madrid 67(2): 83. 2010.

TYPE: [Spain, Balearic Islands, Menorca] In Minorca. Heradez dedit nomine *Malvae crispae*. Junio 1825. *Knoche herbarium*, s.n. (lectotype MPU, designated by Roselló & Sáez 2000).

Description: Sub-shrub, sparsely glandular, 10–50 cm. Leaves orbicular to oblong, up to 3.5 × 3.5 cm, subentire, margin crispate. Upper leaf surface with a trimorphic indumentum of fasciculate short-radiated hairs, sparse glandular hairs and stellate hairs. Flower pale, yellowish or

pinkish; petals 10–15 mm, shorter than calyx or slightly exerted.

Malva micans subsp. *minoricensis* is a rare endemic of northeast Minorca and grows on limestone screes exposed to the sea and also in subruderal habitats.

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