

Lectotypification of *Statice canescens* Host and *Armeria majellensis* Boiss. (Plumbaginaceae)

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We designate lectotypes for *Statice canescens* Host [= *Armeria canescens* (Host) Ebel] and *A. majellensis* Boiss. (Plumbaginaceae), selected from the original material stored at the Herbarium of Naturhistorische Museum in Wien (W) and at the Herbarium of the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève (G), respectively.

Introduction

Armeria (Plumbaginaceae), which includes perennial herbs and cushion-forming dwarf shrubs, is a Holarctic genus mainly distributed in the temperate regions of the northern hemisphere, with a small representation in Chile and Argentina (Lawrence 1940, Kubitzki 1993). Its centre of diversity is located in the western Mediterranean area with about half of the 120 known taxa occurring in the Iberian Peninsula (Nieto Feliner 1990). The genus shows a complex taxonomy due to hybridisation and introgression (Bernis 1954, Nieto Feliner *et al.* 1996, Fuertes Aguilar & Nieto Feliner 2003, Baumel *et al.* 2009). Hence, a satisfactory recognition of taxonomic units is not always possible and intergradation between species is known to be a common process.

The aim of the present paper is to typify the names *Statice canescens* Host — basionym of *Armeria canescens* (Host) Ebel — and *A. majellensis* Boiss. The first one is a central-eastern Mediterranean species, while the second

is an Italian endemic. The taxonomic status of *A. majellensis* is yet unclear (Greuter *et al.* 1989, Conti *et al.* 2005) and some authors (Pinto da Silva 1972) include it in *A. canescens*.

Lectotypification of *Statice canescens*

Statice canescens was first described in 1827 by the physician and botanist Nicolaus Thomas Host, in the first volume of his *Flora Austriaca* (Host 1827). The protologue contains the following information: “[...] *In Dalmatiae montibus*. J. Host, Portenschlag”. Thus, we can assume that he described the species from Dalmatian specimens collected by himself and by Franz von Portenschlag-Ledermayer.

We identified two specimens among the ones preserved in the Herbarium of Naturhistorische Museum in Wien (W), which can be considered an original material. Specifically, the first one is a specimen from the *Herbarium Host*, mounted

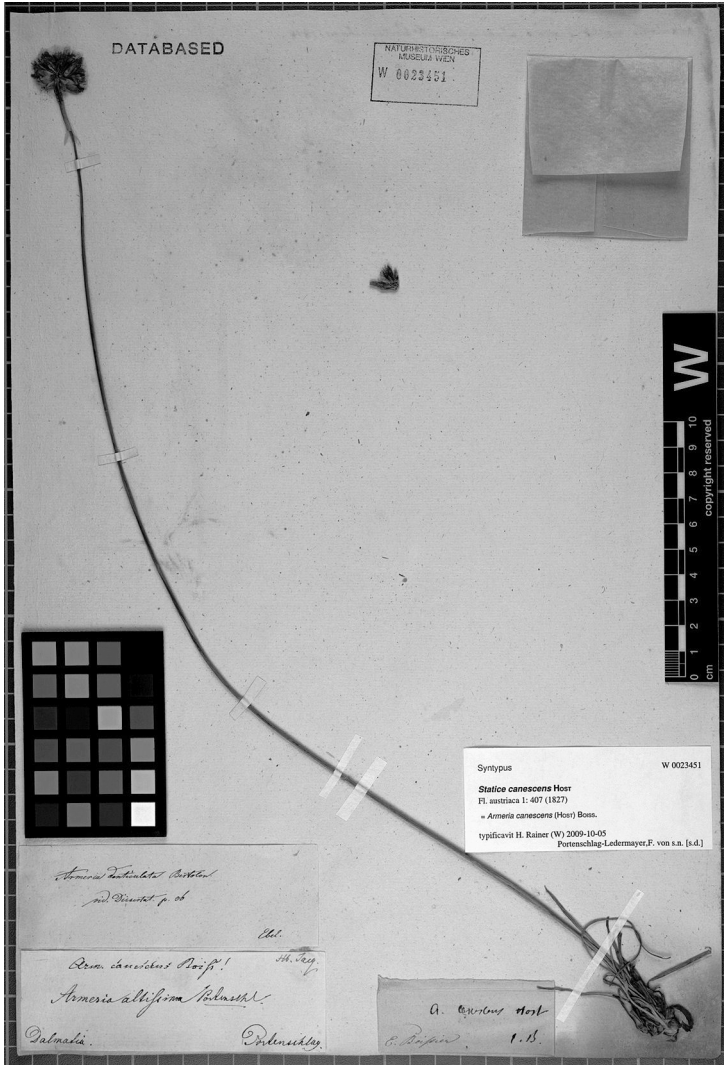


Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Statice canescens* (W0023451).

on the same sheet with a specimen collected by Maly in Montenegro, and the other one was collected by Portenschlag-Ledermayer in Dalmatia. Since Host's specimen lacks any information about the collection site, we select here the Dalmatian specimen collected by Portenschlag-Ledermayer as the lectotype.

Statice canescens Host

Fl. Austriac. 1: 407. 1827. — *Armeria canescens* (Host) Ebel, Armer. Gen. Prodr. Plumbag. Fam.: 28. 1840. — LECTOTYPE (designated here): Dalmatia, s.d., Portenschlag-Ledermayer (W 0023451!) (Fig. 1). — Other original material seen: *N.T.* Host (W 1885-0003070!).

Lectotypification of *Armeria majellensis*

In 1848 Pierre Edmond Boissier, author of the whole chapter on Plumbaginaceae in the de Candolle *Prodromus Systematis Naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*, described *A. majellensis* quoting as collection locality “[...] In monte Majella Aprutii neapolitani (Guss!, Leresche!), forsan in monte Aspromonte Calabriae” (Boissier 1848).

We found the corresponding specimens in the Herbarium of the Conservatoire et Jardin Botaniques de la Ville de Genève. As expected, no corresponding typical material was found in the G-DC (the Herbarium of Prodrome de



Fig. 2. Lectotype of *Armeria majellensis* (G00177568, sheets 1/2 and 2/2).

Candolle). The type specimens, one collected by Gussone and other two by Leresche, were originally in the Boissier herbarium and are now incorporated in the general collection (G).

Armeria majellensis Boiss.

Prodr. (DC.) 12: 685. 1848. — LECTOTYPE (designated here): “in rupibus et pascuis editoribus montis Majella in Aprutio Neapolitano, copiosissima”, Aug. 1844, *Leresche* (G 00177568!, 2 sheets) (Fig. 2). — Other original material seen: Majella, s.d., *Gussone* (G 00177566!); “in rupibus et pascuis editoribus montis Majella in Aprutio Neapolitano, copiosissima”, Aug. 1844, *Leresche* (G 00177567!).

On the specimen collected by Leresche (G 00177568), there is an annotation made in 1951 by G. H. M. Lawrence, a specialist in the genus *Armeria* (Lawrence 1940, 1947). The label says: “I consider this coll. to be the type of Boissier’s *A. majellensis*, but I do not believe it is a species distinct from *A. canescens* (Host) Ebel” (Fig. 3). However, he never published this observation

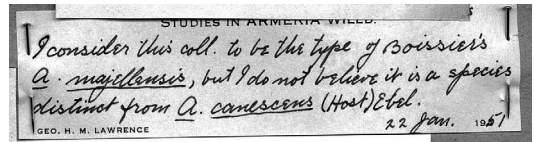


Fig. 3. Detail of sheet 1/2 of G00177568, showing the label written by G. H. M. Lawrence.

and consequently the name was never formally typified. We choose here to lectotypify on the same specimen. This specimen consists of two sheets [as allowed by ICBN, art. 8.3 (McNeill *et al.* 2006)], as is often the case in the herbarium G, which has a relatively small format compared to the average of other international herbaria.

Concluding remarks

There is thus an open taxonomic question regarding the real status of *A. majellensis* and its separation from *A. canescens*. Recognition of the type specimens is therefore of primary impor-

tance in the definition of this problem. Unfortunately, there are no evident features on the type materials that permit us to distinguish the two species without any doubt. The two protologues do not help us much in the correct interpretation, since the one of Host (Host 1827) is very meagre in information. For all these reasons further studies would be desirable to formally establish the real taxonomical position of these two taxa. We are currently involved in such a task, with a study on the variability of the two species at a population level, starting from the two populations in the type localities.

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