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Lectotypification of *Artemisia variabilis* Ten. (Compositae)

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Lectotipificazione di Artemisia variabilis Ten. (Compositae) — Viene proposta in questo lavoro la lectotipificazione del nome *Artemisia variabilis* Ten. Vengono discussi i sinonimi e fornite numerose osservazioni.

Key words: *Artemisia variabilis*, *Compositae*, lectotypification.

Artemisia variabilis was described by TENORE in 1826. In the same page of the protologue of this species, TENORE (1826) invalidly described a variety of *A. procera* for the area of Naples: *A. procera* var. *foliis carnosulis rigidis...*, with which he put in synonymy another invalid name, i.e. *A. neapolitana* Ten. *in litteris*.

In 1829, TENORE established two varieties of *Artemisia variabilis*: *A. variabilis* var. *virescens* and *A. variabilis* var. *canescens*, both validly published.

A reading of later works published by TENORE after the protologue (TENORE, 1829; 1830; 1831 and 1834-35), suggests that he still had some doubts about the possible relations between his *A. variabilis* and another two similar species, *A. procera* Willd. and *A. campestris* L., and that it was only later that he pronounced his opinion with certainty on the matter. It seemed interesting therefore to us, with a view to reconstructing the history of this name, its typification and that of its synonyms, to understand what knowledge TENORE had of these other two entities, that have at different times been considered very close or have at any rate provided reasons for questioning his *A. variabilis*.

A. procera was been described by WILLDENOW in 1803 and together with *A. paniculata* Lam. is at present considered a synonym of *A. abrotanum* L. (TUTIN, 1976). In describing *A. procera* Willd. for the Pyrenees in 1813, LAPEYROUSE reproduced the entire protologue of the species with the addition of a few characteristics which he observed in Spanish individuals.

The synonymy suggested by TENORE in 1826 (*A. procera* var. *foliis carnosulis rigidis...* = *A. neapolitana* Ten. *in litteris*) is justified by the consideration that, as he himself explained later (TENORE, 1830; 1831), he had submitted his *A. neapolitana* to the judgement of botanists who considered it very similar to *A.*

procera. It can reasonably be supposed, however, that the affinity suggested to Tenore in 1826 came from botanists who by *A. procera* meant Lapeyrouse's entity. As a result of this, while in 1826 Tenore included a variety of *A. procera* among the entities of the Neapolitan area, he later excluded it officially (TENORE, 1830). Later DE CANDOLLE (1837) considered «*A. procera* Lapeyr.» a synonym of *A. variabilis* Ten.; but according to BENTHAM (in DE CANDOLLE op. cit.: 94) this entity is a synonym of *A. campestris* L.; BESSER (1845: 467 and 469) on the other hand hypothesises a possible labelling error on the Lapeyrouse specimen reviewed by Bentham and makes the quotation official: «*A. procera* Lapeyr. non Willd. = *A. variabilis* Ten.»

The problem of the affinity between *A. variabilis* and *A. campestris* is perceived by TENORE in 1829. About *A. variabilis* he writes: «*A. campestris* nostra planta potius simillima dici potest...». He states here that *A. variabilis* is different from *A. campestris* only in its «... lignosum caudice brachii crassitudinem...» but he specifies neither author nor possible infraspecific taxa for the latter species.

In 1830 TENORE quotes two varieties of *A. campestris*, both «in arenosis siccis», without officially validating them. They are var. B. *alpina* for Maiella and «var. C. *glutinosa* ad Adriatici oras: Pescara». Regarding the var. *glutinosa* he wonders whether it may be a variety of his *A. variabilis*. In his remarks on *A. variabilis* he returns to the issue and justifies his reasons by stating that the *A. campestris* var. *glutinosa* grown by him in the botanic garden of Naples «... suum indumentum et glutinosam qualitatem abjecit...» as it looks very much like *A. variabilis*. It is this *glutinosa* variety of Central Italy, and in our opinion no other, that Tenore takes as a term of reference both in this context and subsequently (TENORE, 1835-36).

TYPIFICATION

***Artemisia variabilis* Ten.**, Fl. Neapol. Prodr. App. 5:28.1826.

LECTOTYPUS (here designated): «*Artemisia variabilis* Ten. Baja Bagnoli» (Herb.-TEN 95/2 NAP!).

Among the specimens of *A. variabilis* with labels in Tenore's own handwriting in Florence (FI and FI-W), Bologna (BOLO) and Naples (NAP), only the sheet marked Herb.-TEN 95/2 NAP contains sufficient elements to state that the exsiccata in it were definitely in the possession of Tenore in 1826. The sheet contains three branches of inflorescence and the following two labels: 1) «*Artemisia variabilis* Ten. Baja Bagnoli»; 2) «*A. neapolitana* [later crossed out and corrected to] *A. procera* var. caulib. deb.... declinatis racemis breviss. Posil[[]]ipo Pozzuoli». The former is referable to the specimen placed at the centre of the sheet, that corresponds with the description by Tenore especially

in the oval-oblong angular capitula, and is here designated as the lectotype of the species *A. variabilis* (fig. 1).

***Artemisia variabilis* Ten. var. *virescens* Ten.**, Index seminum 14. 1829.

LECTOTYPUS (here designated): «*Artemisia neapolitana* [later crossed out and corrected to] *nob. variabilis A*» (Herb.-TEN 95/1 NAP!).

The protologue of 1829 contains no descriptions but the variety is validated by the bibliographical reference to *A. neapolitana* and therefore to the description of the invalid «*A. procera* var. *foliis carnosulis rigidis...*» (TENORE, 1826).

The typifiable elements are five and are all contained in NAP. The sheet marked Herb.-TEN 95/2 NAP, containing the type of *A. variabilis*, has the following label: «*A. neapolitana* [later crossed out and corrected to] *A. procera* var. *caulib. deb.... declinatis racemis breviss. Posil[[]]ipo, Pozzuoli*» that is attributable to the other two exsiccata (right and left sides of the sheet), both corresponding to the description by Tenore especially as far as regards the oval capitula and the contracted racemes. The sheet marked Herb.-TEN 95/1 NAP contains three exsiccata, all of which definitely belong to the same entity, and one label on which is written: «*Artemisia neapolitana* [later crossed out and corrected to] *nob. variabilis A*.» These specimens Also correspond perfectly to the description by Tenore for the same characteristics mentioned above. We therefore believe we have identified five syntypes. The sample on the left in the sheet Herb.-TEN 95/1 NAP is chosen here as lectotype because of its completeness and its label that explicitly refers to the variety.

NOTES

According to article 26.3 of the I.C.B.N. (GREUTER et al., 1994) the institution of *A. variabilis* var. *virescens* involves the creation of the autonym *A. variabilis* var. *variabilis*. In 1829 TENORE had described another variety of *A. variabilis*, i.e. «*Var. B. Canescens. A. variabilis* Ten. loco citato.» This bibliographical note refers to the *A. variabilis* of 1826. This variety therefore automatically includes the type of the species and consequently its name is not validly published and is illegitimate according to articles 26.2, 52.1 and 52.2 of I.C.B.N. (GREUTER et al., 1994).

In the bibliographical data and in the labels of the original exsiccata of Tenore examined by us, the Author indicates the varieties typified here for the same site, or for very close sites, within the range of a few square kilometres. Moreover the environments are poorly characterised and presumably conti-

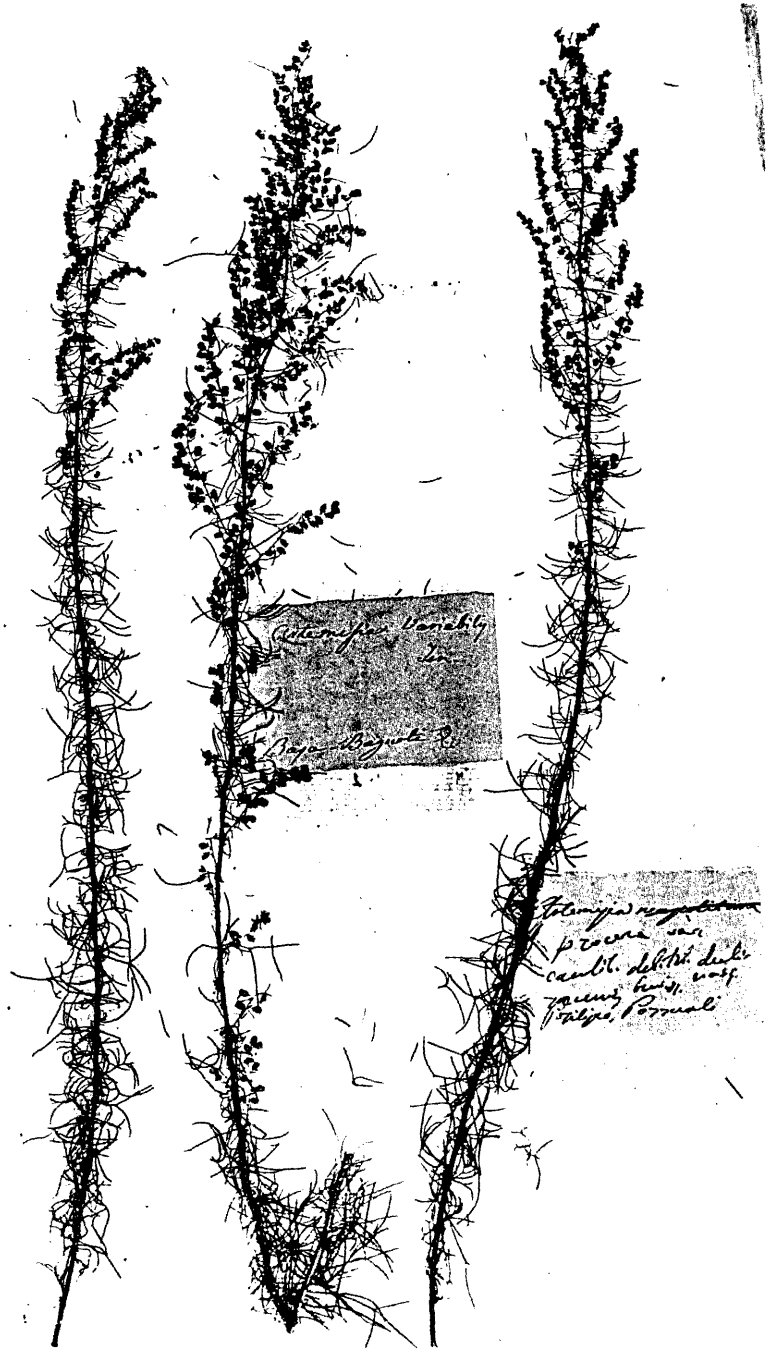


Fig. 1 — Photograph of the sheet containing the lectotype of *A. variabilis* Ten. Lectotype of *A. variabilis* Ten.: specimen at the centre of the sheet.

guous. Even from the observation of only one natural population of *A. variabilis* one can note its remarkable morphological variability, which in fact includes the characteristics considered by Tenore in describing his own varieties.

***Artemisia variabilis* Ten.**, Fl. Neapol. Prodr. App. 5:28.1826.

- (≡) *A. variabilis* Ten. var. *variabilis* (≡) *A. variabilis* Ten. var. *canescens* Ten., Index seminum. 14. 1829.
- (≡) *A. campestris* L. var. *variabilis* (Ten.) Fiori, Fl. Italia. 3: 250. 1903.
- (=) *A. variabilis* Ten. var. *virescens* Ten., Index seminum. 14. 1829.
- (=) *A. variabilis* Ten. var. *neapolitana* Besser, Bull. Soc. Imp. Naturalistes Moscou. 8: 21. 1834.
- (≡) *A. variabilis* Ten. var. *virescens* Ten. b *neapolitana* (Besser) Besser, Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Petersbourg Divers Savans. 4: 469. 1845.
- (—) *A. crithmifolia* sensu Ucria, Hort. panhorm. 349. 1789, non L. (1753).

The following names are excluded:

- A. saligna* Ten. Prodr. Fl. Neapol. suppl. 1: 63. 1813, *nomen nudum*.
- A. neapoletana* Ten., pro syn.

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Summary

The name *Artemisia variabilis* Ten. is here lectotypified. Observations and synonyms are given.