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A NEW SPECIES OF BRASSICA FROM SICILY

P. MAZZOLA & F. M. RAIMONDO

Dipartimento di Scienze botaniche dell'Università, Via Archirafi, 38
Palermo

Resumen. Se describe una nueva especie del W de Sicilia: *Brassica bioniana* Mazzola & Raimondo.

Summary. *Brassica bioniana* Mazzola et Raimondo, a new species from W Sicily, is described.

In order to give a taxonomic and distributive revision of the genus *Brassica* L. sect. *Brassica* in Sicily, herbarium verifications and field surveys have been carried out. Furthermore experimental cultivations have been implanted in the Botanical Garden of Palermo.

On this basis, populations occurring in the limestone sublittoral cliffs in W Sicily have been individualized which, although related to *B. villosa* Biv., are distinct in the peculiar characters of the leaves, especially juvenile, and of the siliqua, as well as from an ecological point of view.

Such populations were temporarily included in *B. villosa* by OTTONELLO, MAZZOLA & RAIMONDO (in the press) but, since their characters are quite constant, they can be taxonomically defined.

The distinction of this new taxon gives further stress to the considerable variation within the hairy *Brassica* complex in W Sicily, which, on the other hand, has been regarded as one species in consequence of the lack of marked characters, especially in the diagnoses.

***Brassica bivoniana* Mazzola et Raimondo, sp. nova**

Suffrutex validus 0,5-1,5 m altus. Folia villosa, incisodentata; inferiora lobata vel sublyrata; superiora integra, lanceolata vel linearia. Folia plantularum integra, acute ovata, irregulariter denticulata. Flores flavidi vel flavi, adscendentes. Siliquae subcompressae, subpatentes, vix torulosae et sinuosae, (4) 4,5-7,5 (8) cm longae. Styli anguste restricti vel cuneati, 6-8(10) mm longi. Semina globosa, 2,1-2,5 mm diametro. Recedit a *B. villosa* Biv. et *B. tinei* Lojac. forma et dentibus foliorum praecipue juvenilium, siliquis longioribus subcompressis et stylis angustis.

Typus. «*Holotypus:* Castellammare del Golfo (TP). Versante N di Monte Inici, 200 m s.l.m., 20.IV.1982, *Raimondo et Mazzola*».

Etymologia. Species illustri botanico siculo A. BIVONAE BERNARDI (1774-1836) dicata.

Iconographia. RAIMONDO et al. (1986, sub *B. villosa* Biv.).

Subshrub 0.5-1.5 m high. Seedling leaves villous, undivided, ovate-triangular, irregularly toothed. Stem lignified and covered by leaf scars, up 2 cm thick. Leaves villous; lower leaves up 30 x 20 cm excluding the up 30 cm long petioles, 2-4 lobed, ovate and more or less acute at the apex; upper leaves gradually becoming undivided, lanceolate to linear. Inflorescences generally up 50-80 cm, branching at different levels. Pedicels 10-20 mm, erect in flower, more or less patent in fruit; sepals 8-11 x 2-3 mm yellowish; petals 16-22 x 6-10 mm, yellow, Siliqua (4) 4,5-7,5 (8) cm long including the 6-8 (10) mm long and slender beak, slightly flattened; valves with a scarcely elevated midrib; seeds globose 2.1-2.5 mm in diameter.

Flowering period. (January) February-may.

Chromosome number. $2n=18$ (RAIMONDO et al., 1982, sub *B. villosa* Biv. Material from the Monte Cronio near Sciacca, S. Sicily).

Ecology. More or less vertical limestone cliffs and at their basis. From about 50 to 650 m above sea level.

Distribution. W Sicily.

Other detailed distributive and ecological data will be given in a forthcoming comprehensive revision of the whole sect. *Brassica* in Sicily.

The main distinctive characters between *B. bivoniana* and the more

closely related taxa, *B. tinei* Lojac. and *B. villosa* s str. are displayed in the following table.

	<i>B. villosa</i>	<i>B. bioniana</i>	<i>B. tinei</i>
Seedling leaves	broadly ovate with irregularly toothed margins	narrowly ovate to triangular with irregularly toothed margins	roundish to obtusely ovate with largely toothed margins
Mature basal leaves	with the terminal lobes usually broadly ovate	with the terminal lobes generally narrowly ovate	more or less undivided, roundish to obtusely ovate
Siliqua	comparatively shorter and not flattened; valves with an evident midrib	comparatively longer, slightly flattened in section	comparatively shorter and transversally flattened; valves with an evident midrib
Beak	conic	slender	conic

Table 1. Main morphological differential characters concerning *B. villosa*, *B. bioniana* and *B. tinei*.

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