

On five *Compositae* taxa which are confusingly illustrated in floristic publications for Andorra

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Abstract

Five *Compositae* taxa which are illustrated in floristic publications for Andorra are questionable records which appear to have never been collected there in the wild.

Key words: *Achillea*; flora of Andorra; *Hedypnois*; *Helichrysum*; *Staezelina*; *Tolpis*.

Resumen

Sobre cinco compuestas erróneamente iconografiadas en publicaciones acerca de la biodiversidad de plantas vasculares andorranas.- Se comentan cinco taxones de compuestas que aparecen confusamente ilustrados en publicaciones florísticas de Andorra y que nunca se han recolectado en territorio andorrano.

Palabras clave: *Achillea*; flora de Andorra; *Hedypnois*; *Helichrysum*; *Staezelina*; *Tolpis*.

While revising the bibliographical references of plants for the different Pyrenean states for Euro+Med Plantbase (2005), a number of highly questionable records for Andorra were encountered. These references were published by Joan Bouchard both in 1981 and in a second printing of the same work which appeared in 1989. The origin of these records has been determined, and the conclusions arrived at are laid out below. It is worth mentioning that Bouchard's (1981, 1989) work is difficult to obtain due to the wide thematic nature of the series, which is intended for a strictly academic circle. Lately, in a recent synthesis of the Principality's flora (Carrillo *et al.*, 2008: 14), Bouchard's contribution is considered to be a basic reference work for the Andorran flora. The herbarium

sheets which served as vouchers for Bouchard's citations are deposited in the *Centre d'estudis de la neu i la muntanya d'Andorra* (CENMA) in Andorra.

Tolpis barbata (L.) Gaertn.

This appears in an illustration of Bouchard's work (1981: 70, 1989) on the flora of Andorra, but curiously no mention of the taxon is made in the text. Neither can any sheet which would confirm this record be found in Bouchard's herbarium, kept in CENMA. Evidently we are dealing with an erroneous reference for Andorra's flora. *Tolpis barbata* is a plant of the Mediterranean lowlands, which becomes scarce towards the interior (Bolòs & Vigo, 1995).

The presence of this illustration in the above mentioned work probably has its origin in an earlier publication by the same author (Bouchard, 1971; plate 181). In this first work, illustrations of the plants appear in the same order as they do in the *Primer Herbari de la Flora d'Andorra* (Bouchard, 1981), which leads us to believe that they were used for both publications, irrespective of the real presence of all illustrated plants in Andorra.

***Hedypnois rhagadioloides* (L.) F. W. Schmidt [= *Hedypnois polymorpha* DC.]**

It appears as an illustration in Bouchard's work (1981: 70), the only difference being that here the plate, too, is a copy of the one published in Bouchard (1971: 181).

This is another unlikely citation for the flora of Andorra, this taxon being typical of the Mediterranean lowlands, too (Bolòs & Vigo, 1995).

***Staehelina dubia* L.**

The same can be said for this taxon which was encountered in a plate of Bouchard's work (1971: 165), since the same illustration appears in Bouchard (1981: 161). It is a Mediterranean plant that extends to the Pre-Pyrenean chain but does not reach the High Pyrenees (Bolòs & Vigo, 1995).

***Achillea maritima* (L.) Ehrend. & Y. P. Guo [= *Otanthus maritimus* (L.) Hoffmanns. & Link; ≡ *Diotis candidissima* Desf.]**

What can we say about the presence of this psammophyte taxon from the sea coast in the mountains of Andorra? Its inclusion in the work of Bouchard (1981: 40; as *Diotis candidissima* Desf.) was the puzzling fact which led us revise the illustrations of this publication, and to detect those five *Compositae* taxa referred indirectly and erroneously to the Flora of Andorra. The

plate was originally published in Bouchard (1971: 157).

***Helichrysum italicum* subsp. *serotinum* (DC.) P. Fourn. [= *Helichrysum serotinum* (DC.) Boiss.]**

What has been said for the previous four taxa is also true for this Mediterranean thermophilous plant, which reaches the pre-Pyrenean chain. It is also illustrated in Bouchard's work (1981: 40). This icon is a copy of a plate of illustrations from Bouchard's earlier work (1971: 157). As with the previous taxa, there is neither a textual reference nor are there any herbarium sheets that would support this record.

To conclude, the absence of herbarium vouchers requires that these five indirect references to the flora of Andorra, highly improbable at best, be considered as lacking value and, consequently, as records to be had as false.

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