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LECTOTYPIFICATION OF TWO *ORIGANUM* NAMES (LAMIACEAE) DESCRIBED BY GAETANO SAVI

Abstract - *Origanum confertum* Savi and *O. fortuitum* Savi are typified on herbarium specimens kept in PI. These taxa are identifiable, as heterotypic synonyms, with *O. majorana* L. and *O. xpaniculatum* W.D.J.Koch, respectively.

Key words - Lamiaceae - *Origanum* - nomenclature - taxonomy - typification.

Riassunto - *Lectotipificazione dei due nomi di Origanum (Lamiaceae) descritti da Gaetano Savi* - *Origanum confertum* Savi ed *O. fortuitum* Savi sono tipificati su campioni d'erbario conservati in PI. Tali taxa risultano identificabili, come sinonimi eterotipici, con *O. majorana* L. ed *O. xpaniculatum* W.D.J.Koch, rispettivamente.

Parole chiave - Lamiaceae - *Origanum* - nomenclatura - tassonomia - tipificazione.

INTRODUCTION

Gaetano Savi (1769-1844) was a prominent figure among Italian botanists and published a large number of scientific papers and texts, where many botanical species were described (Ridolfi, 1845). Up today, a large part of these names still lacks typification. As few exceptions, we can cite *Phalaris subulata* Savi (Baldini & Jarvis, 1991), *Solidago litoralis* Savi (Garbari & Cecchi, 2000), *Caccinia glauca* Savi (Selvi & Cecchi, 2009), and *Verbena prostrata* Savi (O'Leary *et al.*, 2010). As the beginning of a typification project devoted to Gaetano Savi, we present here the results concerning two *Origanum* names published by the author during his studies on this genus (Savi, 1835, 1840a-b).

TYPIFICATION

***Origanum confertum* Savi**, Giorn. Tosc. Sci. Med. 1: 12 (1840)

Lectotype (here designated): 1837, V. 2766, *Origanum confertum* Nob. [manu G. Savi] (PI!) (Fig. 1)

Other herbarium original material: An. 1836 *Natu per Origanum aegyptiacum* V. 2766. *Calix unilabiatus* [manu G. Savi], *Origanum confertum* Nob. [manu P.

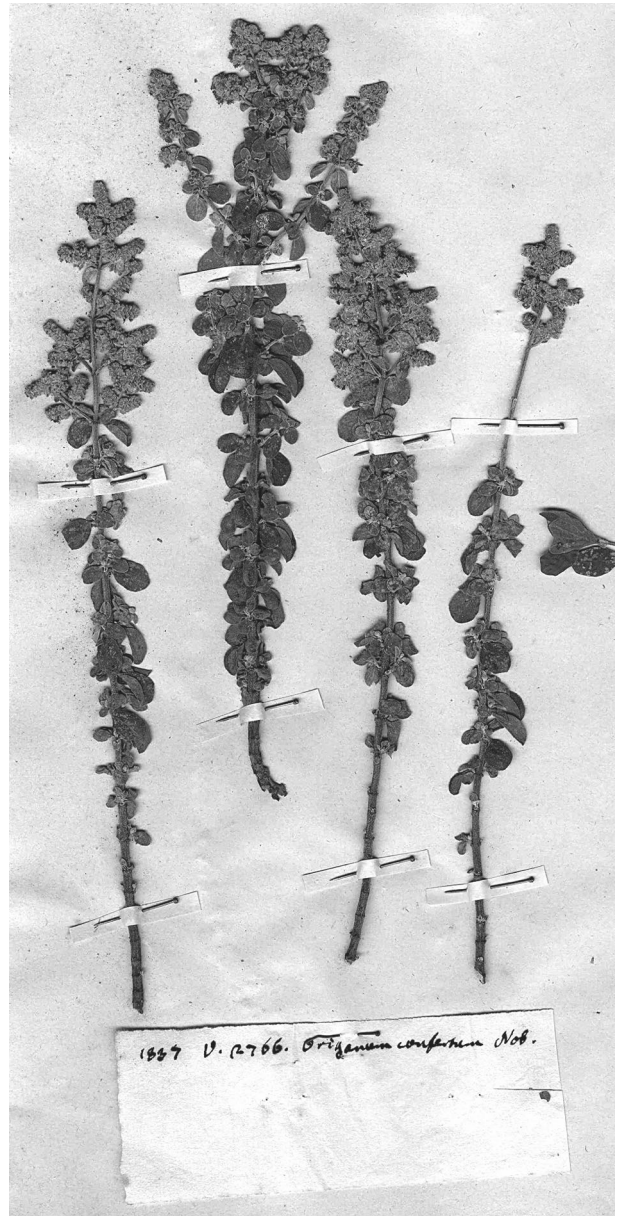


Fig. 1 - Lectotype of *O. confertum* Savi, kept in PI.

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Savi, son of G. Savi] (PI!); *Origanum confertum* Nob. [manu G. Savi] (PI!); *Origanum Hort. Genuens.* [manu G. Savi], *Origanum confertum* Nob. [manu P. Savi] (PI!); *Origanum confertum* Nob. [manu P. Savi] (PI!); *Majorana vulgaris?* Hort. genuens. [manu G. Savi], *Origanum confertum* Savi [manu P. Savi] (PI!).

In the protologue, Savi (1840b) described plants of unspecified cultivated origin as «*Origanum confertum* foliis ovato-obtusis, vel ovato-rotundatis, inflorescentia thyrsoida rigida, spicis subsessilibus confertis densissimis, cylindrico tetragonis, bracteis ovato-rotundatis cochleariformibus, calyce unilabiato subaequalibus. Nob.». We found in herbarium PI six specimens labelled as «*Origanum confertum* Nob.». All of them conform to the protologue description and are seemingly original material for this name, as it is the illustration in the protologue (Savi, 1840b: T. II, *Origanum confertum* and figs. a, b, c). We select here a herbarium specimen with label written by Gaetano Savi, complete of collection date, to serve as the nomenclatural type for this name.

The study of the selected lectotype confirms the current application of the name, as a heterotypic synonym of *O. majorana* L. (Ietswaart, 1980).

***Origanum fortuitum* Savi, Giorn. Tosc. Sci. Med. 1: 12 (1840)**

Lectotype (here designated): *Origanum fortuitum paniculae ramis patulis subascendentibus, spicis ovato-conicis crassiusculis, bracteis ovatis cochleariformibus villosis, eglandulosis, calyces exquisite labiato. Fusti alti da un piede a un piede e mezzo. Suffrutice della grandezza dell'O. syriacum, fusti però più robusti i rami della pannocchia son più rigidi e più patenti: le spighette non più lunghe di quattro linee, ovato-coniche, con brattee ovato-cochleariformi, sprovviste di glandole, nervose, più lunghe del calice. Calice subconico, nervoso, appena peloso, glandoloso, labiato col labbro superiore più lungo e tridentato, e i due denti del labbro inferiore più stretti, e tutti cigliati. La corolla è più grande di quella dell'O. syriacum, rossa, o color di rosa più o meno pallido, col labbro superiore più profondamente smarginato che in quello. Le foglie han la stessa figura di quelle dell'O. syriacum, ma egualmente che il resto della pianta hanno peluria più folta, e son di color verde-bigio, biancastro [manu G. Savi] (PI!) (Fig. 2)*

Other herbarium original material: *Origanum fortuitum* V. 42 [manu G. Savi] (PI!).

In the protologue, Savi (1840b) described plants of unspecified cultivated origin as «*Origanum fortuitum* foliis ovato-lanceolatis, spicis ovato-conicis crassiusculis, bracteis spathulato-cochleariformibus, calyce exquisite

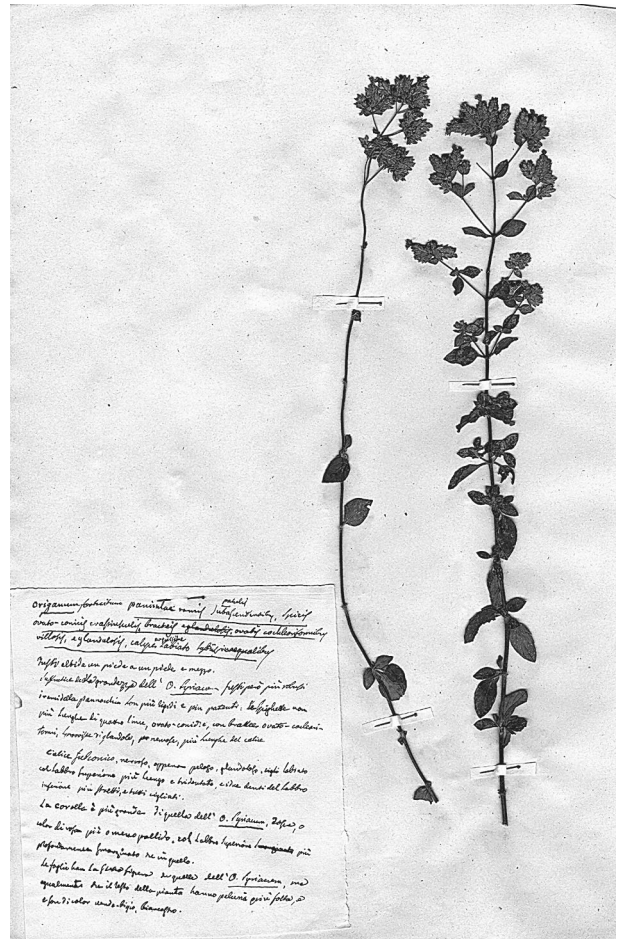


Fig. 2 - Lectotype of *O. fortuitum* Savi, kept in PI.

labiato. Nob.». We found in herbarium PI two specimens labelled as «*Origanum fortuitum* Nob.». Both of them conform to the protologue description and are seemingly original material for this name, as it is the illustration in the protologue (Savi, 1840b: T. II, *Origanum fortuitum* and fig. d). Gaetano Savi usually disregarded to indicate collection dates and/or localities on his specimens. Indeed, his herbarium was conceived mainly as a collection of materials for comparative studies. By knowing this, also Savi's specimens lacking date and localities can be considered as original materials for typification purposes (Baldini & Jarvis, 1991; Garbari & Cecchi, 2000; O'Leary *et al.*, 2010; Selvi & Cecchi, 2009). Also in this case, we select here a herbarium specimen with label written by Gaetano Savi, complete of a detailed autograph description, to serve as the nomenclatural type for this name.

The study of the selected lectotype shows that the name *O. fortuitum* is a heterotypic synonym of *O. xpaniculatum* W.D.J.Koch, currently applied to hybrids among *O. majorana* L. and *O. vulgare* L. subsp.

vulgare (Ietswaart, 1980, under the name *O. xapplii* (Domin) Boros). This hybrid is known from gardens in West and Central Europe, where the parental species are cultivated (Ietswaart, 1980). Indeed, Savi (1840b) obtained unexpectedly (hence the epithet «*fortuitum*») this *Origanum* among plants of *O. majorana*, in a pot where he sowed only the latter species. Ietswaart (1980) treated *O. fortuitum* as a doubtful name, maybe representing a hybrid between *O. majorana* and *O. vulgare* subsp. *viride* (Boiss.) Hayek.

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