

NOTA BREU

A new nomenclatural combination in *Leopoldia* (Scilloideae, Asparagaceae) and first record of *Leopoldia matritensis* for Catalonia**Una nova combinació nomenclatural a *Leopoldia* (Scilloideae, Asparagaceae) i primera cita de *Leopoldia matritensis* per a Catalunya**

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Leopoldia Parl., or *Muscari* L. subgenus *Leopoldia* (Parl.) Rouy, is a group of bulbous plants belonging to Asparagaceae, subfamily Scilloideae (formerly Hyacinthaceae). *Leopoldia* has been recently recognized as a separate genus within Asparagaceae in several taxonomic treatments and checklists (Trias-Blasi *et al.*, 2015; Jafari, 2015; Govaerts, 2016; Böhnert & Lobin, 2017). The genus *Leopoldia* has a Pan-Mediterranean origin and comprises about 14 species distributed in Europe, the Mediterranean area, Macaronesia and SW Asia (Ruíz Rejón *et al.*, 1985; Jafari & Maassoumi, 2011; Govaerts, 2016). According to Jafari & Maassoumi (2011) *Leopoldia* is separated from *Muscari* by its fertile flowers green to yellow and its sterile flowers violet or blue (vs. fertile and sterile flowers more or less concolorous, dark violet to blue in *Muscari*). The morphological delimitation of taxa within *Leopoldia* is complex (Ruíz Rejón *et al.*, 1985).

Suárez-Santiago & Blanca (2013) recognized two species of *Muscari* subgenus *Leopoldia* for the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands: *M. comosum* (L.) Mill. and *M. matritensis* Ruíz Rejón, L. Pascual, C. Ruíz Rejón, Valdés & J.L. Oliv. Both species differ in several reproductive characters as shape, size and colour of fertile flowers (Suárez-Santiago & Blanca, 2013). *Muscari comosum* has a relatively wide distribution: Europe, Madeira, Canary Islands, the Mediterranean region, S Russia and Middle East, whilst *M. matritensis* was regarded as endemic to the Iberian Peninsula (Suárez-Santiago & Blanca, 2013).

In this note we provide a first data on the presence of the latter species in Catalonia. Moreover, a new nomenclatural combination is proposed to accommodate placement of *Muscari matritensis* within the genus *Leopoldia*.

New nomenclatural combination

Leopoldia matritensis (Ruíz Rejón, L. Pascual, C. Ruíz Rejón, Valdés & J.L. Oliv.) Aymerich & L. Sáez, **comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Muscari matritensis* Ruíz Rejón, L. Pascual, C. Ruíz Rejón, Valdés & J.L. Oliv. in *Lagascalia* 14: 295 (1986)

On the presence of *Leopoldia matritensis* in Catalonia

As a result of our fieldwork we provide the first location of *L. matritensis* for Catalonia:

ALT EMPORDÀ: el Port de la Selva, Serra de Santa Helena, between Santa Helena and Sant Pere de Rodes, 31TEG1385 (31N ETRS89), 470-520 m a.s.l., 14 June 2018, P. Aymerich (Fig. 1; personal herbarium).

In Santa Helena –located at the eastern end of the Pyrenean range– *L. matritensis* was found in a granite slope near the Mediterranean sea, north facing and covered by maquis vegetation (*Erica arborea* L., *Phillyrea latifolia* L., *Quercus ilex* L.,...). We observed about 20 individuals of *L. matritensis*, although the real number of individuals is, in all probability, higher.

The discovery of *L. matritensis* in northeastern Catalonia is not surprising at all, as it has been reported from nearby French locations. Although Suárez-Santiago & Blanca (2013) consider that *L. matritensis* is an endemic species from the center and south of the Iberian Peninsula, they indicate that its distribution is probably wider. In recent years, data on its presence on the French Mediterranean coast are progressively generated, far from the traditionally known Iberian localities. These French populations form apparently a disjunct area of *L. matritensis*, that includes also the new Catalan location.

French populations of *L. matritensis* are very poorly documented in the botanical literature, and most data belong to biodiversity databases, technical reports or internet photographs (this information source is often confusing). Tison *et al.* (2014) reported the species from Languedoc and Provence regions, as very rare in two French departments (Aude and Var), but precised that its distribution and frequency are poorly known. Currently the French INPN database (In-



Figure 1. *Leopoldia matritensis* from Serra de Santa Helena. Photographs: P. Aymerich.

ventaire National du Patrimoine Naturel) reports *L. matritensis* from five Mediterranean departments (Alpes-Maritimes, Var, Bouches-du-Rhône, Aude and Pyrénées-Orientales) and more than twenty 10 × 10 km UTM squares, mainly in Provence (https://inpn.mnhn.fr/espece/cd_nom/610916), so it not seems a rare plant in this area. The only record of *L. matritensis* included in this database for the Pyrénées-Orientales department corresponds to the northern slope of Albera massif, less than 30 km from the Serra de Santa Helena site. There are other not published records in this department, also known as Northern or French Catalonia. The first data came from a montane site in the inner Pyrenean valley of Cerdanya (Gorges del Segre, Llo, c. 1450 m a.s.l.), where *L. matritensis* was discovered before 2012 and there is not difficult to find internet photographs obtained at this location (e.g. <http://www.tela-botanica.org>). The species was also found at Noedes Natural Reserve in Conflent county (Borrut & Lewin, 2014). These fragmentary data suggest that *L. matritensis* may be a scarce species with a relatively wide range in the Eastern Pyrenees and new locations will be discovered in the coming years.

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