

NOTA BREU

Erigeron lilacinus (Asteraceae) in the Iberian Peninsula*Erigeron lilacinus* (Asteraceae) a la península Ibèrica

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Erigeron lilacinus (Sennikov & Kurtto) Sennikov

ANDORRA: La Massana, Xixerella, UTM 1 × 1 km 31T CH7512, 1425 m a.s.l., meadow, 26-IX-2022. CATALONIA: Cerdanya, Bellver de Cerdanya, close to river Segre in Gallissà area, UTM 1 × 1 km 31T CG9791-9891 (ETRS89), 1000 m a.s.l., roadsides, 19-IX-2022 (Fig. 1); Cerdanya, Prullans, N-260 road between Bellver de Cerdanya and Prullans, UTM 1 × 1 km 31TCG9792 (ETRS89), 1025 m a.s.l., roadside, 14-IX-2022; Cerdanya, Lles de Cerdanya, N-260 road 0,5 km west of Martinet, UTM 1 × 1 km 31TCG9190 (ETRS89), 950-970 m a.s.l., roadside and meadow, years 2018-2022; Pallars Sobirà, Llavorsí, south of the confluence of the Barranc del Riu and Noguera Pallaresa river, UTM 1 × 1 km 31TCH5305 (ETRS89), 800 m a.s.l., wasteland on the west side of the C-13 road, years 2016-2022 (P. Aymerich, pers. herb.).

Erigeron annuus L. s.l. is a plant of North American origin with a complex taxonomy. It is naturalised in Europe, where traditionally three morphological groups had been distinguished. These groups were recently recognized as three subspecies (Sennikov & Kurtto, 2019) and subsequently as separate species (Sennikov *et al.*, 2020), because their morphological characters remain stable, without intermediate morphotypes, and the reproduction is probably apomictic. Following this last treatment, the recognized species are

Erigeron annuus s.s. [*E. annuus* subsp. *annuus*], *E. lilacinus* [*E. annuus* subsp. *lilacinus* Sennikov & Kurtto] and *E. strigosus* Muhl. [*E. annuus* subsp. *strigosus* (Muhl.) Wagenitz]. In the Iberian Peninsula, Pujadas (2019) points out that the Iberian plants assigned to *E. annuus* are morphologically homogeneous, always with erect hairs and nearly always with only white ray flowers (occasionally some blue ray flowers in plants with white ray flowers); this description belongs unequivocally to *E. annuus* s.s. (*E. annuus* subsp. *annuus*).

We have recently located some *E. lilacinus* populations in the Catalan Pyrenees (NE Iberian Peninsula). This is the first report from the Iberian area. The characters that allow these plants to be assigned to *E. lilacinus* are basal half of stem with erect hairs, medium leaves coarsely dentate (not always obvious) and ray flowers 9-10 mm long and pale lilac (Fig. 1). In Europe, *Erigeron lilacinus* has been reported as an alien at least in Finland and Russia (Sennikov & Kurtto, 2019), Germany (Otto & Verloove, 2019) and Italy (Sennikov & Galasso, 2021) although it is probably more widespread. It is also known as a naturalized plant in Central and Eastern Asia (Sennikov *et al.*, 2020; Sennikov & Lazkov, 2021).

Although some *E. annuus* s.s. populations are known in Cerdanya plain, further east, we did not find mixed populations of this taxon and *E. lilacinus*. Currently known area of *E. lilacinus* is loosely connected with the main area of



Figura 1. *Erigeron lilacinus*, Prullans (Cerdanya): a) ray florets pale lilac, b) median leaves coarsely dentate and stem with erect hairs.

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E. annuus s.l. in Catalonia, located in the east and centre of the country, where it is naturalised since the 1960s (Bolòs & Vigo, 1996), it has become invasive and is clearly expanding. In this main area only *E. annuus* s.s. has been observed so far. It can be confusing that in the floristic synthesis of Sáez & Aymerich (2021) Catalan populations are referred to «*E. annuus* subsp. *septentrionalis* (Fernald & Wiegand) Wagenitz [*E. annuus* subsp. *strigosus* auct.]», but the subsp. *septentrionalis* should be considered a synonym of subsp. *annuus* in the sense of Sennikov & Kuritto (2019). Coinciding with Pujadas (2019), we have never observed in Catalonia plants with appressed hairs on the stems, a typical character of *Erigeron strigosus*, although Bolòs & Vigo (1996) comment that they would also occur in our area.

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