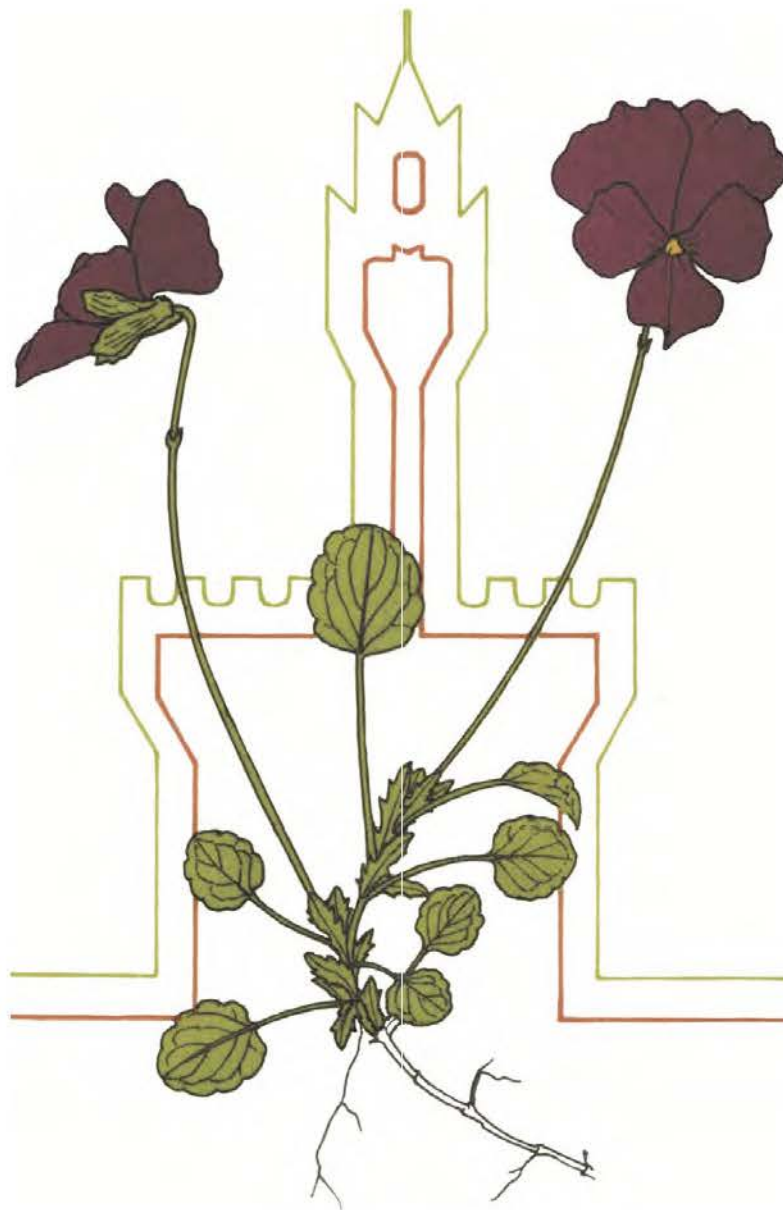


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# **Società Botanica Italiana**

## **109° Congresso**



**International Plant Science Conference (IPSC)**

**from Nature to Technological Exploitations**

Florence, 2 - 5 September 2014

3.1 = *VERBENA BONARIENSIS* (VERBENACEAE) ADVENTIVE IN ITALYVIVIENNE SPADARO<sup>1</sup>, FRANCESCO M. RAIMONDO<sup>1</sup>, GIANNIANTONIO DOMINA<sup>2</sup><sup>1</sup>Dip. STEBICEF / Sez. di Botanica ed Ecologia vegetale, Università di Palermo, Via Archirafi, 38, I – 90123, Palermo;<sup>2</sup>Dip. SAF, Università di Palermo, Via Archirafi 38, I – 90123, Palermo

Among the species of *Verbena* L. cultivated in Italy Traverso (1) reports: *V. venosa* Gilles, *V. tenera* Sprengel (= *V. pulchella* Sweet.) and the horticultural hybrid *V. hybrida* Hort. (= *V. hortensis* Hort.). No trace of *V. bonariensis* L., that is reported about 60 years later as naturalized in Tuscany (2). In the Herbarium Centrale Italcum (FI) are housed specimens collected in Piedmont and Tuscany, labelled as *V. venosa* – taxon considered a variety of *V. bonariensis*.

*V. bonariensis*, as indicated by the specific epithet, is a South American species, herbaceous, usually perennial, also cultivated as an ornamental. Several varieties and wild forms are known of this taxon. The International Plant Names Index (IPNI) records: *V. bonariensis* f. *albiflora* Moldenke, *V. bonariensis* var. *brevibracteata* Kuntze, *V. bonariensis* var. *conglomerata* Briq., *V. bonariensis* f. *gracilis* (Cham.) Voss., *V. bonariensis* var. *hispida* Moldenke, *V. bonariensis* var. *litoralis* Hook., *V. bonariensis* var. *longibracteata* Kuntze, *V. bonariensis* var. *rigida* (Spreng.) Kuntz, *V. bonariensis* f. *robustior* Chodat, *V. bonariensis* f. *venosa* (Gillies & Hook.) Voss.

This species is native of S. America (Argentina, Brasile, Paraguay and Uruguay) (3, 4) and introduced in the USA (5), Azores, Great Britain, Canary Islands, Portugal, Madeira (6) and in Italy, as reported above, in Tuscany, in Tombolo Pisano (PI) (2, 7, 8) and in Liguria (8).

Some considerations on the tendency of naturalization of the species in Sicily (9) where accidentally misinterpreted as the report of naturalization in the region (10, 11). This record was neglected in the subsequent floras and checklists (7, 8, 12, 13).

Recently we verified the spontaneous occurrence of *V. bonariensis* at the edges of a channel, in the southern outskirts of the city of Palermo (Sicily). This population, referred to *V. bonariensis* var. *hispida*, is made up of about 100 vigorous and perennial individuals with tendency to expand, actually, in the same area.

The taxonomic identity of the Tuscan populations is different. In this region, it is known from Tombolo Pisano (2) as well as from Florence as documented by specimens collected in the square in front of the rail station of S. Maria Novella (*Raimondo et Domina*, 21/06/2012, PAL), in the fenced area for works of rearrangement of the square. In comparison with the population from Tombolo Pisano, referred to the nominal type, the population from Florence looks like annual and belonging to a different variety, also in comparison with the Sicilian one.

The recent discovery in Sicily as well as increasing the quota of adventitious exotic vascular flora of the island, confirms the tendency of the species to spread further in the national territory.

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