



## Taxonomy, typification and karyology of *Crepis lacera* (Asteraceae)

FRANCESCO ROMA-MARZIO\*, GIOVANNI ASTUTI & LORENZO PERUZZI

Dipartimento di Biologia, Unità di Botanica, Università di Pisa, Via Luca Ghini 13, 56126, Pisa, Italy;

e-mail francesco.romamarzio@for.unipi.it

\*author for correspondence

### Abstract

*Crepis lacera* is a diploid species ( $2n = 8$ ), mostly occurring in Italy, with a disjunct population in Albania. The names *C. lacera*, *C. latialis* and *C. lacera* f. *titani* are here lectotypified, and their taxonomic value is discussed. For the latter name, based on morphological, biogeographical and karyological results, we propose here the subspecific rank (*C. lacera* subsp. *titani* stat. nov.). In addition, basal leaf morphology variation, the main distinguishing feature between the two subspecies, is discussed in the light of paedomorphosis, and a distribution map for both subspecies is presented.

**Key words:** Cichorieae, *Crepis latialis*, karyotype asymmetry, paedomorphosis, Pampanini, Sebastiani, Tenore

### Introduction

The genus *Crepis* Linnaeus (1753: 805) (Cichorieae, Asteraceae) includes 46 specific and subspecific taxa in Italy (Conti *et al.* 2005, 2007), six of them endemic to the country (Peruzzi *et al.* 2014). Among the species occurring in Italy, *Crepis lacera* Tenore (1815a: 71) is distributed as native across Apennines (Conti *et al.* 2005; F. Bartolucci pers. comm.). This taxon occurs also in Albania (Vangjeli *et al.* 2009), where it is found only in Dajti mountain (L. Shuka pers. comm.). According to a recent taxonomic review of the genus *Crepis*, based on molecular studies, this species belongs to *C.* sect. *Succisocrepis* Sch.Bip. ex Bischoff (1851: 248) (Enke & Gemeinholzer 2008, Enke 2009). Tenore & Gussone (1842) claimed that *C. lacera* s.s. is a poisonous species with narcotic effect, as also later confirmed by Romanelli *et al.* (1996).

According to the protologue (Tenore 1815a), Michele Tenore (1780–1861) choose the epithet “*lacera*” (= torn) because of the runcinate-pinnatifid to 1–2 pinnatisect basal leaves typical of this species.

Renato Pampanini (1875–1949) described, from Mt. Titano (San Marino Republic), *C. lacera* f. *titani* Pampanini (1920: 118), showing larger, entire, only runcinate basal leaves (Fig. 1). According to these differences, Fiori (1928) raised this taxon to varietal rank, whereas Pignatti (1982) and later taxonomic authors ignored this unit.

Concerning chromosome numbers, only *C. lacera* s.s. was previously investigated (Marchal 1920, Chicchiricò & Tammaro 1982, Bellomaria & Hruska 1983, Aquaro *et al.* 2004) and all these authors reported diploid counts  $2n = 2x = 8$ . A couple of different counts ( $2n = 10$ , Peruzzi & Cesca 2003;  $2n = 18$ , Sell 1976) were also reported.

The aim of this paper is to verify the taxonomic status of *C. lacera* var. *titani*, by means of nomenclatural, herbarium and karyological investigations.

The present study is carried out within the initiative “Italian Loci Classici Census” (Domina *et al.* 2012, Peruzzi *et al.* 2015), aimed to providing data on the original material of the plants described from Italy.

### Materials & Methods

Herbarium specimens housed at APP, FI, NAP, PI and RO (see Appendix 1; acronyms follow Thiers 2015) were investigated, in order to check the constancy of morphological features of basal leaves and to draw the distribution map of *C. lacera* s.s. and *C. lacera* var. *titani*. All those specimens conforming to plants from the locus classicus of the latter taxon (showing entire to weakly lobate basal leaves) were attributed to var. *titani*, while the others were attributed to *C. lacera* s.s.