

Rodney M. Burton

Two new flowering plant species for the flora of Crete

Abstract

Burton, R. M.: Two new flowering plant species for the flora of Crete. — Fl. Medit. 6: 69-70. 1996 — ISSN 1120-4052.

Euphorbia maculata L. and *Phalaris brachystachys* Link are recorded from Crete.

Introduction

Two recent publications listing the flora of Crete, Karpathos and other nearby South Aegean islands (Turland & al. 1993, Jahn & Schönfelder 1995) have spurred me to re-examine my own un-numbered collections from western Crete in May 1989. Amongst them I found two small specimens which I have given to the Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum, one of them representing a species not mentioned by either, the other a species whose presence in Crete both doubt.

Euphorbia maculata L.

This species, native in North America, was occupying about a square metre of ground in degraded phrygana on the neck of the Akrotiri peninsula. Its presence there was no doubt connected in some way with Chania airport, the perimeter of which was about 15 metres away. Though the same habitat had other indicators of disturbance *Lactuca saligna* L., *Reseda alba* L. and *Crepis zacynta* (L.) Babcock, there were also plants of natural communities *Hypericum empetrifolium* Willd. subsp. *empetrifolium*, *Orchis coriophora* L. subsp. *fragrans* (Pollini) Sudre, *Allium rubrovittatum* Boiss. & Heldr. and the endemic species *Asperula rigida* Sm. and *Galium incrassatum* Halácsy. Further visits will be necessary to establish whether the plant has been able to gain further ground in these surroundings and become an abundant naturalised alien, as it has in some south European countries.

Phalaris brachystachys Link

This grass has previously been recorded from the Cretan area only by Gandoger (1917), who gives two localities in the east of the island. Gandoger's record was cited by

Rechinger (1943), but in view of his known unreliability and the impossibility of reviewing his specimens, it has not been accepted in more recent times. My own gathering is from Polirinia in the northwest, and I also have a specimen from a field near the town of Karpathos, collected in May 1986, the identification of which has been confirmed by H. Scholz at Berlin. It seems to me possible that this species has a scattered distribution on both islands, and has been overlooked among populations of other species of *Phalaris*.

References

- Gandoger, M. 1917: Quatrième voyage botanique en Crète, 1917. — Bull. Soc. bot. France **64**: 110-122.
- Jahn, R. & Schönfelder, P. 1995: Exkursionsflora für Kreta. — Stuttgart.
- Rechinger, K. H. 1943: Flora aegaea: Flora der Inseln und Halbinseln des Ägäischen Meeres. — Wien.
- Turland, N. J., Chilton, L. & Press, J. R. 1993: Flora of the Cretan area. — London.

Address of the author:

Rodney M. Burton, Sparepenny Cottage, Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford, Kent DA4 0JJ, England, U.K.