

***Potamogeton gramineus* and *P. angustifolius*, new to the Sicilian flora**

Francesco M. Raimondo

Abstract

Raimondo, F. M.: *Potamogeton gramineus* and *P. angustifolius*, new to the Sicilian flora. — Fl. Medit. 6: 81-84. 1996 — ISSN 1120-4052.

The finding of *Potamogeton gramineus* L. and *P. angustifolius* Bercht. et Presl new to the Sicilian vascular flora is reported at Pian del Leone artificial lake (Filaga, Palermo).

The creation of waterworks in Sicily has somehow balanced, in its environmental effects, the destruction of the lake habitat caused by the hydraulic drainage promoted in the first decades of this century in order to get rid of malaria.

The lake flora, in particular, underwent a considerable reduction and many species have rarefied or even gradually disappeared.

The reservoirs built in the Sicilian inland from 1923 onwards to face the increased water demands for civil and agricultural ends, paved the way to the gradual reinsertion of vanished species and in some cases even for the settlement of other taxa alien to Sicily.

In correspondence to the disappearance of species such as *Nymphaea alba* L., *Nuphar lutea* (L.) Sm. reported by Lopriore (1900) for Biviere di Lentini (Syracuse), or *Utricularia vulgaris* L. recorded by Lojacono (1904) in the Palermo province, other species considered as extinct have subsequently been found again.

This is the case of *Polygonum amphibium* L. reported by Barone & Naselli Flores (1987) at Biviere di Cesarò (Mts Nebrodi).

Among the taxa of new settlement - thanks to the recent collections made by the staff of the Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum (PAL) - *Potamogeton gramineus* L. and *P. angustifolius* Bercht. et Presl are to be included.

They have been found at the artificial lake of Pian del Leone, one of the eldest of the island, since it was built in 1930, and placed nearby Filaga at the base of Mts Sicani (829 m a.s.l.), in the catchment basin of Sosio river at the southern limits of the province of Palermo (Fig. 1).

The two entities above mentioned - one of which (*P. angustifolius*) of hybridogenous nature - are, therefore, to be included among the several taxa of the genus *Potamogeton* reported by Pignatti (1982) for the Sicilian flora.

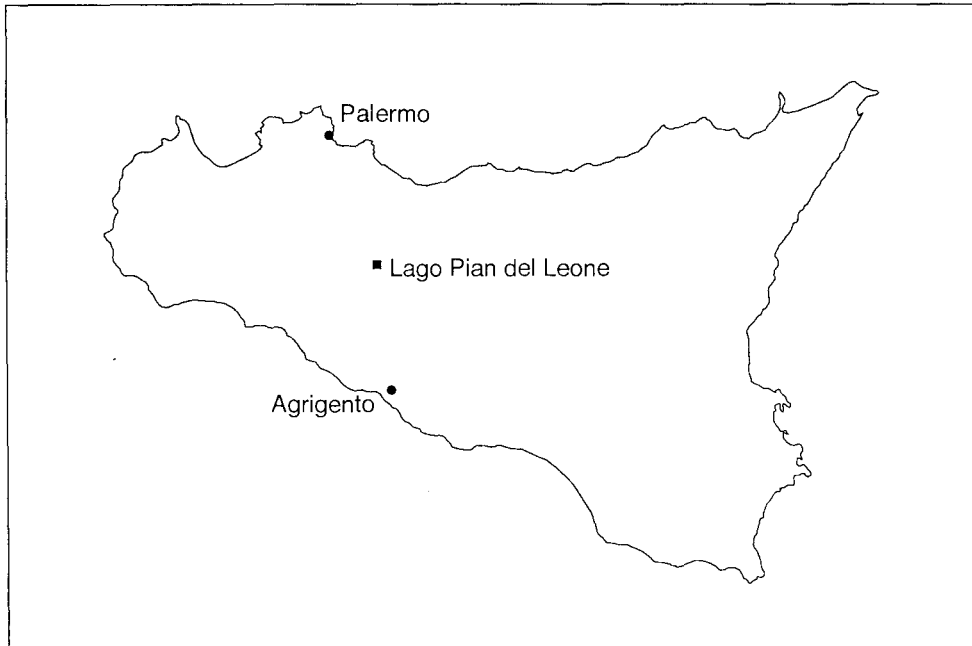


Fig. 1. (●) Localization in Sicily of the finding station of *P. gramineus* and *P. angustifolius*.

P. gramineus (Fig. 2A) belonging to the circumboreal element, is known in most regions of Europe, Northern America and Australia; it is very rare in the Mediterranean area (Dandy 1980). In the Italian territory, Pignatti (1982) reported it for Alps, Padania, Latium, Gargano and in Corsica.

P. angustifolius (Fig. 2B) is considered by several authors as hybrid of *P. gramineus* L. x *P. lucens* L. (Hess & al. 1967) and as synonym of *P. zizii*. Dandy (1980) quoted *P. x zizii* at the foot of the description of *P. lucens*, while Pignatti (1982) agreed with the hybrid status. The taxon, even with the name of *P. zizii* Mert. et Koch., is recorded in France, Switzerland, British Islands, Scandinavia, W. Russia, Himalaya, China, Turkestan, N. America and Australia (Hegi 1907, Douin 1931). In Italy it had been reported up to now only in the Bolzano area (Pignatti 1982).

Studied materials

Potamogeton gramineus L.: Lago Pian del Leone (Filaga, Palermo), in prossimità della sponda meridionale, 829 m a.s.l., 18 Jul 1996, Schimmenti & Scafidi (PAL); *idem* 8 Aug 1996.

Potamogeton angustifolius Bercht. et Presl: Lago Pian del Leone (Filaga, Palermo), in prossimità della sponda meridionale, 829 m a.s.l., 18 Jul 1996, Schimmenti & Scafidi (PAL); *idem* 8 Aug 1996.



Fig. 2. **A**, *Potamogeton gramineus*; **B**, *P. angustifolius* (from Hegi 1907, modified).

Acknowledgements

Financial support by the Italian Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica is gratefully acknowledged. The author is also grateful to Mr E. Schimmenti and G. Scaffidi for the data provided.

References

- Barone, R. & Naselli Flores, L. 1987: Segnalazioni Floristiche Italiane: 508. — *Inform. Bot. Ital.* **19(3)**: 343.
- Dandy, J. E. 1980: *Potamogeton* L. — Pp. 7-11 in: Tutin, T. G., Heywood, V. H., Burges, N. A., Moore, D. M., Valentine, D. H., Walters, S. M. & Webb, D. A. (ed.), *Flora Europaea* **5**. — Cambridge University Press.
- Douin, R. 1931: *Potamogeton*. — Pp. 41-42 in: Bonnier, G. (ed.), *Flore complète illustrée en couleurs de France, Suisse et Belgique*. XI. — Paris.
- Hegi, G. 1907: *Illustrierte Flora von Mittel-Europa* **1**: 193. — C. Hauser Verlag, München.
- Hess, H. E., Landolt, E. & Hirzel, R. 1967: *Flora der Schweiz* **1**: 194. — Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel.
- Lojacono, M. 1904: *Flora Sicula* **2(2)**: 172. — Palermo.
- Lopriore, G. 1900: Studi comparativi sulla flora lacustre della Sicilia. — *Tip. Monaco e Mollica, Catania*, pp. 116.
- Pignatti, S. 1982: *Flora d'Italia* **3**: 148-149. — Edagricole, Bologna.

Address of the author:

Prof. Francesco M. Raimondo, Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche, Università di Palermo, Via Archirafi 38, I-90123 Palermo, Italy.