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ALLIUM AETHUSANUM (ALLIACEAE), A NEW SPECIES
FROM THE ISLAND OF FAVIGNANA
(AEGADEAN/EGADI ISLANDS, SICILY) (**)

Riassunto — *Allium aethusanum* (Alliaceae), specie nuova per l'isola di Favignana (Egadi, Sicilia). Viene descritta una nuova specie di *Allium* (Sect. *Brevispatha*) per l'isola di Favignana, chiamata *A. aethusanum*.

Abstract — *Allium aethusanum* (Sect. *Brevispatha*) is here described. This new species has been found in Favignana at Punta Sottile, on the meadows in front of the sea.

Key words — *Allium* - Egadi - Sicily.

In July 1986, during a study trip to the Conservatoire Botanique at Geneva I was able to examine some undetermined *Allium* specimens which had been gathered by A. Charpin, M. Dittrich and D. Jeanmonod, on 13th June 1983, a few metres from the coastline from seaside meadows at Punta Sottile which is situated at the north-western extremes of the island of Favignana, Aegadean Islands (*exsiccata* in G). Dr. A. Charpin kindly donated some samples which were taken back to Pisa for detailed investigations.

An unsuccessful attempt to find the plant was made in company with Prof. F. Catanzaro from Mazara del Vallo, during a visit to the island of Favignana in early April 1987. However on 11th June, thanks to precise directions from Dr. Charpin himself, Prof. F. Catan-

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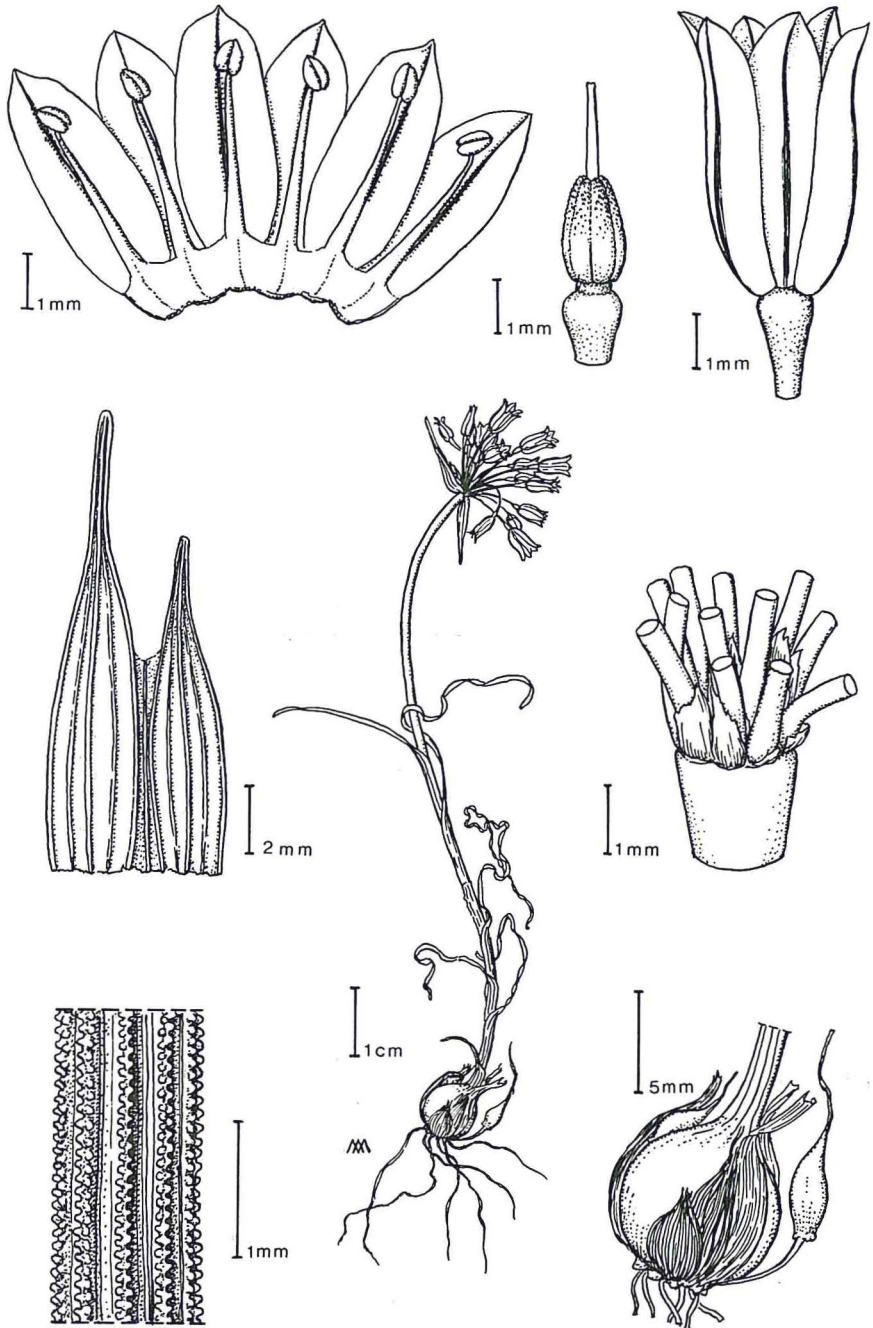


Fig. 1 - *Allium aethusanum*: details of a flowering specimen. Bottom: lamina of the leaf (left) and bulb with pedicellate bulblets (right) [193/1987, Leg. F. Catanzaro; *cult.* in H.B.P.].

zaro was able to find the station in the same place on the island and gather several specimens of *Allium* from it, in flower.

An examination of somatic characters reveals that this plant cannot be referred to any known entity and for this reason is proposed as a new species.

The name of the species refers to the Latin name for the island of Favignana: «Aethusa, quam Aegusam scripserunt...» (cfr. Pliny, Nat. Hist. III, 92).

Systematic aspects, connections with other entities in the Sect. *Brevispatha*, to which it can be assigned, together with anatomical, caryological and ecological characteristics of this species will be the subject of a further paper.

***Allium aethusanum*, sp. nova** (Sect. *Brevispatha* Valsecchi emend. GARBARI *et al.*, 1979).

Typus: «Italie, Sicilie, Isole Egadi, Favignana. Pelouses maritimes près de Punta Sottile, ca. 10 m, 14 juin 1983». *A. Charpin*, *M. Dittich*, *D. Jeanmonod*. AC 18162. *Holotypus* in PI; *isotypi* in G, FI.

Bulbus subsphaerico-ovoideus, 5.5-7.0 × 6.0-7.5 mm, interdum bulbillis ovoideis pedicellatis praeditus; tunicis externis papyraceis, ochraceis vel spadiceis, laevibus vel parce longistrorsum striatis. Folia caulina 3-4, subtilia (0,5-0.7 mm crassa), 4-5 cm longa, scapo breviora, apice obtusa, marginibus nervisque denticulato-scabris. Scapus solitarius, erectus vel parce flexuosus, usque ad 12 cm altus, glaber, vaginis foliorum inferne per 1-4 cm obtectus. Inflorescentia 3-12 flora, varie laxa vel conferta, pedicellis floralibus inaequalibus, 5-15 mm longis. Spatha bivalvis, valvis subaequalibus, nervatis, inflorescentia brevioribus. Bostryces 4, bracteis intrapedicellaribus hyalinis, irregulariter dentatis. Perigonium cylindraco-campanulatum, 5-6 mm longum, 2.8-3.0 mm latum, tepalis obtusis vel subacutis, albo-roseis, vena media purpurea in sicco persistente praeditis. Stamina inclusa, filamentis simplicibus, linearibus, basi breviter connatis; antheris luteis, inclusis. Ovarium subcylindraco-ovatum. Stigma breviter trilobum. Capsula manifeste trivalvis, 3.0 × 3.5 mm. Semina minutissime reticulato-rugosa, bina in capsulae loculis. Numerus chromosomaticus, 2n=16.

Allium aethusanum is related to *A. francinae* Brullo & Pavone from the island of Marettimo but differs from it in its bulb, not covered by fibrous tunics, its denticulate-asperulate (even along the ribs) leaves and in the cylindrical-ovate shape of its ovary (BRULLO and PAVONE, 1983).

Allium aethusanum is so far known only for Punta Sottile on Favignana, its *locus classicus*, where previous vegetational investigations had not revealed the presence of any *Allium* (DI MARTINO and TRAPANI, 1967).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Tav. 1 - *Allium aethusanum* Garbari from Favignana (Aegadean Islands, Sicily), 14 june 1987. Leg. F. Catanzaro.

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