

Validation of *Ericaria brachycarpa* var. *claudiae* Boudouresque, Perret-Boudouresque & Blanfuné (*Sargassaceae*, *Phaeophyceae*)

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The designation “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone”^{*} was introduced by Giaccone (in Cinelli & al. 1976: 161) and included a Latin diagnosis of his variety in a footnote “(1)”, but he neither indicated the type of the name nor gave any illustration of the taxon. Thus the varietal designation is invalid (ICN Arts 40.1 and 44.2; Turland & al., 2018), respectively. Ten years later, Giaccone in a paper by Amico & al. (1986: 906) referred again to “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” citing the diagnosis published in Cinelli & al. (1976: 161) but provided two photos of his variety (figs 22–23). However, although the publication of photos satisfied the requirement of ICN Art. 44.2, the designation remained not validly published because the type had not yet been indicated. Later, Giaccone in the paper by Ribera & al. (1992: 124), again referred “*Cystoseira brachycarpa* var. *claudiae* Giaccone” intending to propose a new combination, but the resulting name is also not validly published as the intended basionym “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” was not a validly published name. Recently, Boudouresque & al. (2022: 20), published “*Ericaria brachycarpa* var. *claudiae*” Boudouresque, Perret-Boudouresque & Blanfuné, also intending to propose a new combination, but the resulting name, as pointed out by Guiry & Guiry (2022) is invalid as the supposed basionym “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” is not a validly published name.

In CAT (Herbarium of the Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, Section Vegetal Biology, University of Catania), a number of Herbarium specimens labelled “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” are held, on the labels of some of which Giaccone wrote “*typus*”. Because, as far as we know “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” is still not a validly published name, we here provide the following validation choosing one of the above specimens as holotype:

***Ericaria brachycarpa* var. *claudiae* Boudouresque, Perret-Boudouresque & Blanfuné, var. nov.**
Diagnosis: Giaccone in Cinelli & al. *Memorie di Biologia Marina e di Oceanografia, N. S.*, 6(5): 16,1 1976 (in Latin).

Holotype: ITALY: Sicily: Agrigento, Linosa Island, Fili Islet, depth: 6 m, 31 May 1973, *Herbarium Giaccone ex CAT 2324* (Fig. 1).

Paratypes: Sicily: Agrigento, Linosa Island, Fili Islet, depth: 8 m, 31 May 1973, *Herbarium Giaccone ex CAT 2325*. Sicily: Agrigento, Linosa Island, Fili Islet, depth: 45 m, 31 May 1973, *Herbarium Giaccone ex CAT 2326*. Sicily: Agrigento, Linosa Island, Fili Islet, depth: 7 m, 31 May 1973, *Herbarium Giaccone ex CAT 2327*. Sicily: Agrigento, Linosa Island, Faraglioni, depth: 4 m, 25 May 1973, *Herbarium Giaccone ex CAT 2328*

Etymology: The varietal epithet was coined to honour Professor Giaccone’s wife Claudia.

Comments: Morpho-anatomical characters of Herbarium specimens labelled “*Cystoseira balearica* v. *claudiae* Giaccone” held in CAT agree with those proposed by Orellana & al. (2019) for the genus *Ericaria* Stackhouse (as *Carpodesmia* Greville). Also, a cross section we made of a primary branch of the holotype shows the characteristic features of the genus *Ericaria*, namely a

^{*} Double quotation marks indicate a designation, that is, what appears to be a name but that has not been validly published (see Turland & al. 2018: 205).

cortex made of rounded cells with thin walls and a meristoderm formed by a layer of rectangular cells twice as long as wide (Fig. 2). On this basis, “Giaccone’s variety” clearly belongs to the genus *Ericaria* and we therefore here validate the name as proposed by Boudouresque & al. (2022: 20).

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Fig. 1. *Ericaria brachycarpa* var. *claudiae* Giaccone ex Boudouresque, Perret-Boudouresque & Blanfuné, var. nov.. Holotype (CAT 2324). Bar = 5cm

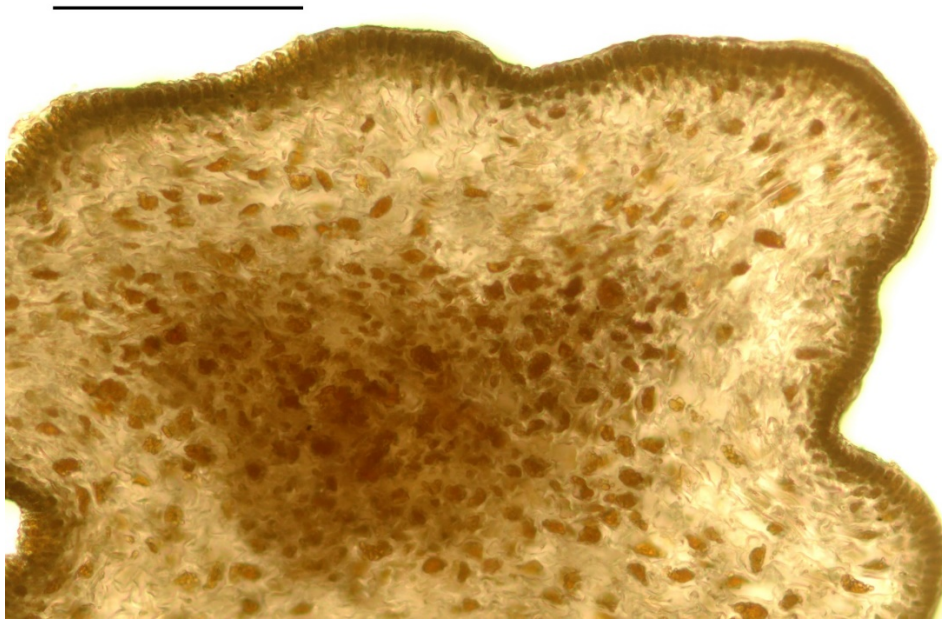


Fig. 2 – Transverse section of a primary branch of the holotype (CAT 2324). Bar = 200 μ m.