



Hieracium terraccianoii (Asteraceae), a new species endemic to the Pollino National Park (Southern Italy)

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Abstract

A new species endemic to the Pollino National Park (Southern Italy), *Hieracium terraccianoii*, is described and illustrated. Information on its morphology, distribution, ecology and taxonomic relationships is provided.

Keywords: Calabria, endemism, *Hieracium* sect. *Grovesiana*, taxonomy, vascular flora

Introduction

The Pollino National Park covers an area of about 196,000 ha (Bernardo 1995) across the border between Calabria and Basilicata (Southern Italy) and includes three main mountain ranges: Pollino Massif, Orsomarso Mountains and Mt Alpi (Cocca *et al.* 2006). Through its history of studies, the interest of eminent botanists (Tenore, Huter, Porta, Rigo, Terracciano, Gavioli, Lacaíta, Fiori, etc.) for this area has yielded many data on its flora and vegetation. The number of the vascular plant taxa present in the Pollino National Park has been estimated to be about 1500 (Gargano *et al.* 2014). Regarding *Hieracium* Linnaeus (1753: 799) s. str., Gavioli (1947) reports the following 12 taxa: *H. hypochoeroides* subsp. *serinense* (Zahn 1921: 614) Greuter (2007: 334), *H. murorum* Linnaeus (1753: 802), *H. naegelianum* subsp. *andreae* (Degen & Zahn 1907: 93) Zahn (1922: 1017), *H. oxyodon* var. *hastatum* Arvet-Touvet (1913: 41), *H. pallescens* subsp. *tephrochlorum* (Zahn 1901: 115) Gottschlich (2007: 48), *H. pallidum* Bivona-Bernardi (1838: 11), *H. pollinense* Zahn (1901: 145), *H. portanum* Belli (1904: 472), *H. racemosum* subsp. *crinitum* (Smith 1813: 134) Rouy (1905: 410), *H. racemosum* subsp. *virgaurea* (Cosson 1847: 209) Zahn (1916: 349), *H. scorzonerifolium* subsp. *divaricatum* Nägeli & Peter (1886: 134), and *H. valoddae* subsp. *austroitalicum* (Zahn 1901: 146) Zahn (1921: 620).

In July 2014, during floristic inventory of the Scala di Gaudolino (on the Calabrian side of the Pollino Massif, above Morano Calabro, CS) (Fig. 1), a sizeable population of *Hieracium* was found. From the same area, Nicola Terracciano (1890) had reported two *Hieracium* species: *H. murorum* and *H. pallidum*. However, a comparative study of the plants showed that they clearly differ morphologically from all *Hieracium* taxa so far named. Therefore they are here described as representing a new species, *H. terraccianoii*.

Hieracium terraccianoii Di Grist., Gottschl. & Raimondo, sp. nov. (Fig. 2)

Type:—Italy, Calabria, Pollino Massif, Scala di Gaudolino, Morano Calabro (CS), carbonate rocks, 39°54'01.09"N, 16°10'09.1"E, 1350 m, 12 July 2014, *Di Gristina 101239* (holotype PAL!, isotypes PAL-Gr!, FI!, B!, Hb. Gottschlich-61550!).

Diagnosis:—*Planta Hieracio busambarensi similis sed foliis maculatis, involucri pilis glanduliferis minus densis sed magis stellatis, involucri phyllis apice minus acutis differt.*

Description:—Plant perennial, pseudorosulate. Rhizome stout or slender, oblique or horizontal. Stem erect, stout (Ø 1–1.4 mm), (15-)21–35(-40) cm tall, green, often brownish-purple at the base, subtly striate, phyllopodous, beneath with sparse to moderately dense, 1.5–5.0 mm long, whitish, rather soft, dentate simple hairs, sparse, 0.1 mm long,



FIGURE 4. Carbonate rocks and stony slopes of Scala di Gaudolino, the habitat of *Hieracium terracciano*.

Among the hitherto known taxa of *Hieracium* sect. *Grovesiana*, *H. terracciano* resembles most closely the Sicilian endemic *H. busambarense* Caldarella, Gianguzzi & Gottschlich (2014: 439), but it differs from this species in having spotted leaves, less acute involucral bracts and by bract indumentum (more stellate hairs and less glandular hairs).

Hieracium terracciano adds to the considerable number of new endemic *Hieracium* taxa recently discovered in S Italy (Raimondo & Di Gristina 2004, 2007, Gottschlich *et al.* 2013, Di Gristina *et al.* 2013, Caldarella *et al.* 2014).

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