

Taxonomic status of *Thamnum cossyrense* and *T. cossyrense* var. *melitense* (Bryopsida)

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Thamnum cossyrense Bott. is synonymized with *Scorpiurium sendtneri* (Schimp.) M.Fleisch. and *Thamnum cossyrense* var. *melitense* Bott. is synonymized with *Scorpiurium circinatum* (Brid.) M. Fleisch. & Loeske (Brachytheciaceae). An identification key to the three species of *Scorpiurium* occurring in Europe is provided. *Scorpiurium sendtneri* is recorded for the first time for France.

Key words: Brachytheciaceae, nomenclature, *Scorpiurium*, taxonomy, *Thamnum cossyrense*, *Thamnum cossyrense* var. *melitense*

Bottini (1907) described *Thamnum cossyrense* Bott. based on a specimen collected by Sommier on the island of Pantelleria in the Mediterranean. In the same publication, Bottini also described *T. cossyrense* var. *melitense* Bott. The type specimen of the latter was also collected by Sommier, in Malta. In 1908, Bottini published further descriptions and illustrations of the new taxa.

According to my observations, *Thamnum cossyrense* is identical with *Scorpiurium sendtneri* (Schimp.) M. Fleisch. and *T. cossyrense* var. *melitense* is identical with *Scorpiurium circinatum* (Brid.) M. Fleisch. & Loeske. The formal synonymization is presented below.

Scorpiurium sendtneri (Schimp.) M. Fleisch.

Hedwigia 61: 405. 1920. — *Fabronia sendtneri* Schimp.,

Syn. ed. 2: 585. 1876. — Type: Italy. “auf einem alten Baume in einer Kluft um Chersano”, 20.V.1843 *Sendtner s. n.* (isotype H-SOL!, “ex herb. Tommasini”).

Thamnum cossyrense Bott., Webbia 2: 361. 1907, syn. nov. — *Thamnobryum cossyrense* (Bott.) A.J.E. Smith, J. Bryol. 11: 605.1981. — Lectotype (selected here): “Stèphen Sommier – Cryptogamae italicae 187 *Thamnum cossyrense* Bottini (nov.spec.) 1907 Insula Pantelleria (olim Cossyra) dal Semaforo a Gielkhamer (n.186 commixt.) 18 Mart.1906 legi determ.D.A.Bottini” (FI!; isolectotypes FI!, PC!, S!).

Scorpiurium circinatum (Brid.) M. Fleisch. & Loeske

Allg. Bot. Zeitschr. 13: 22. 1907. — *Hypnum circinatum* Brid., Spec. Musc. 2: 148. 1812. — Type: “In faucibus d’Oulioules dictis prope Tolonem ad rupes calcareae densis implexisque caespitibus anno 1803 legi, nec alibi vidi. Fructus deerat” (Bridel 1812) (not seen).

Thamnum cossyrense Bott. var. *melitense* Bott., *Webbia* 2: 368. 1907, *syn. nov.* — Type: “Stephen Sommier – Cryptogamae italicae corrige: *Thamnum cossyrense* Bott. var. *melitense* 286 *Thamnum alopecurum* (L.) Br. eur. acced. ad var. *gracillimum* Bott. Insula Malta (olim Melita) Città vecchia, Ta Baldu e vicinato 11 Apr. 1906 legi determ. D.A. Bottini” (FI!; isotype H-BR!).

Identification key to the three European species of *Scorpiurium*:

1. All leaves broadly ovate or broadly triangular; basal stem leaves rounded apiculate *S. deflexifolium*
1. Branch leaves ovate or lanceolate; basal stem leaves acuminate 2
2. Plants green, dull; branches mostly curved, branch leaves mostly ovate-lanceolate; basal stem leaves usually with a short acumen, abruptly tapering to apex *S. circinatum*
2. Plants yellowish, shiny; branches mostly straight, branch leaves mostly lanceolate; basal stem leaves usually with a long acumen, gradually tapering to apex *S. sendtneri*

Scorpiurium sendtneri was not cited for France by Düll (1985) and, as far as I know, there are no subsequent published records from that country. Thus, the species is here recorded for the

first time for France based on the following specimen: Provence, Draguignan, “du pont de clorques a Encapis 8 Janvier 1912 Girod ver: Theriot” (G, labelled “*Thamnum alopecurum* forme Draguignan”).

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- Düll, R. 1985: Distribution of the European and Macaronesian mosses. Part II. — *Bryol. Beitr.* 5: 110–232.