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Typification of the Linnaean name *Atropa frutescens* (*Solanaceae*) of an endemic western Mediterranean species

Abstract

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The typification of *Atropa frutescens* L. (\equiv *Withania frutescens* (L.) Pauquy) (*Solanaceae*) is discussed. The designation of the nomenclatural type is based on the consultation of Linnaeus's original material and the literature cited in the protologue. An original specimen conserved in the Linnean Herbarium at the Linnean Society of London (LINN) is designated as the lectotype.

Key words: Linnaeus, nomenclature, herbaria.

Introduction

Withania Pauquy (*Solanaceae*) is a small genus of about 20 species, ranging from the Canary Islands to Japan. Although frequently placed near *Physalis* L. because of the inflated calyx there is little evidence of their being in any way related. Several *Withania* species have long been grown as drug plants (Atal & Schwerting 1962). They are stellately woolly suffrutices of the drier parts of Mediterranean basin, with shortly petiolate, ovate-elliptic leaves up to 5.5 cm long. The flowers are small and green, in axillary clusters, such that a dense, leafy, spike-like inflorescence is formed. In the fruit the pedicels elongate and the calyces inflate around red berries.

Linnaeus (1753, 1756, 1759, 1771) described 7 species in the genus *Atropa* L. Of these, *Atropa frutescens* is currently assigned to the genus *Withania* as *Withania frutescens* (L.) Pauquy. It is a rare plant with an extremely restricted distribution in the western Mediterranean basin (Iberian Peninsula, Balearic Islands, Morocco and Algeria) (Gallego 2012).

From the standpoint of nomenclature, as for many other Linnean names (see Jarvis 2007; Ferrer-Gallego 2013), the name *Atropa frutescens* has not been typified as yet. The designation of the its type, effected here, is based on the consultation of Linnaeus's original material and of the literature cited in the protologue.

Typification

Linnaeus's protologue includes the *nomen specificum legitimum*, "*Atropa caule fruticoso*", followed by a single synonym "*Bella-dona frutescens rotundifolia hispanica*", cited from Tournefort (1719: 77) and Barrelier (1714: ic. 1173), as well as a brief diagnosis "*Habitus omnia Physalidis somnifera, ut limites generum in solo calyce consistant*". Of the synonym citations, only that in Barrelier refers to an illustration. Among the original material (see Jarvis 2007: 339) only one specimen relevant to *Atropa frutescens* is preserved in the Linnaean herbarium at the Linnean Society of London (LINN): Herb. Linn. No. 246.6 (LINN) (image available at: <http://linnean-online.org/1869/>). That specimen is in good condition, with leaves and flowers, supporting the traditional and current use of the Linnaean name. It is the only herbarium sheet available as lectotype: no specimens relevant to *Atropa frutescens* could be traced in any other Linnaean or Linnaeus-linked herbaria. Although the illustration from Barrelier (1714) is identifiable as Linnaeus's *Atropa frutescens* and is also part of original material, we prefer to designate the specimen at LINN as the lectotype because, in a general way, specimens are preferable to illustration as types.

Atropa frutescens L., Sp. Pl.: 182. 1753.

Ind. loc.: "*Habitat in Hispania*".

Lectotype (designated here): Herb. Linn. No. 246.6 (LINN [digital image!]) (<http://linnean-online.org/1869/>)

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