

Line 1 – Plants biodiversity, Evolution and systematics

TYPIFICATION OF NAMES BY ROBERTO DE VISIANI (1800-1878) WITH A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY, AUTHOR- AND COLLECTION-CENTRIC APPROACH

People involved: Antonella Miola and Moreno Clementi
antonella.miola@unipd.it; moreno.clementi@unipt.it

Project description

Botanists need access to historical collections of dried plants (*herbaria*) in order to precisely clarify the identity of taxa described by authors of the past. These studies involve the formal process of typification, prescribed by the Code of nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants, which requires the actual specimens originally used for the descriptions to be identified and designated as types, so to permanently attach them to their scientific name, and serve as absolute reference. With over 600 newly described taxa and almost 1,000 newly established names, Roberto de Visiani was one of the most important scholars to direct the Botanical Garden of Padova, a position he held from 1837 to his death. He was the author of numerous important works of taxonomy, mostly focused on the vascular flora of his homeland, Dalmatia, and left in Padova not only a large collection of about 12,000 specimens, mainly included in his *Herbarium Dalmaticum*, but also thousands of letters, manuscripts, and other unpublished material. Up to now, the study of all these materials has led to 41 type designations (see *Phytotaxa*, *Hacquetia*, *Botanica Serbica*, *Acta Botanica Croata*), detailed notes for 17 other *names* and a draft treatment of the 275 *names* newly published in *Flora Dalmatica* (PhD Thesis of Moreno Clementi). The data from the *Herbarium* and Visiani's published works are integrated in a geodatabase managed through QGIS, which allows to investigate them through powerful querying and which will be made available to the *Herbarium* of Padova and the general public. Unpublished material by Visiani is being made freely available online on the PHAIDRA platform by the University's Library Centre.



Lectotypus of *Geum molle* Vis. & Pančić designated in Clementi M., Vukojičić S., Lakušić D. & Kuzmanović N., 2015. Typification of the names published by Roberto de Visiani and Josif Pančić in *Plantae Serbiicae Rariores aut Novae – Deicas I*. *Phytotaxa* 202: 121–134).