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Hieracium praealtum subsp. *thaumasium*, new for the Italian flora

Abstract

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On the basis of Italian herbarium specimens and new personal collections, distributional data are provided for *Hieracium praealtum* subsp. *bauhinii* and subsp. *thaumasium*. The latter subspecies, as defined in the treatment of Flora Europaea, appears to be new for the Italian flora, except perhaps for its locus classicus on the Yugoslav border. It occurs in the provinces of Basilicata, Latium and Molise (central and southern Italy). A detailed description and a drawing of it are provided.

Introduction

Hieracium sect. *Praealtina* presents a high diversity in southern Europe. According to Zahn (1923) it includes three "species collectivae": *H. pavichii* Heuffel, *H. florentinum* All. and *H. bauhinii* Besser, each of the latter two being in turn divided into five "greges". For the Italian flora Fiori (1925-1929) indicates four varieties within *H. piloselloides* Vill.: var. *florentinum* (All.) Fiori, var. *praealtum* (Vill.) Fiori, var. *obscurum* (Reichenb.) Fiori and var. *bauhinii* (Besser) Fiori. Pignatti (1982) recognizes, within the *H. piloselloides* complex, the same five "greges" that Zahn had placed under *H. florentinum*: *H. florentinum* All., *H. obscurum* Reichenb., *H. praealtum* Vill., *H. beerianum* Dalla Torre & Sarnth., and *H. subcymigerum* Zahn. Brillì Cattarini (1976) agrees with Zahn and separates *H. bauhinii* from *H. piloselloides* on the basis of the presence of stolons; under *H. bauhinii* he recognizes two subspecies in Italy, differing in hairiness of the involucre: subsp. *bauhinii* with predominantly simple, eglandular hairs, and subsp. *arvorum* (Nägeli & Peter) Brillì Cattarini (ined.) with predominantly glandular hairs.

Sell & West (1975, 1976), instead, separate *H. praealtum* Vill. ex Gochnat from *H. piloselloides* Vill. on the basis of the presence of stellate hairs on the peduncles in the first and of simple hairs only in the latter. In *H. praealtum*, they distinguish four subspecies on the basis of the presence and length of stolons: subsp. *praealtum*, subsp. *anadenium* (Nägeli & Peter) P. D. Sell, *H. bauhinii* subsp. *bauhinii* (Besser) Petunnikov and subsp. *thaumasium* (Peter) P. D. Sell. The latter subspecies was originally described by Peter (1884) as "Stammform" of *H. magyricum*, on plants from the Predil pass near Raibl, presently on the frontier between Italy and Yugoslavia more clearly, however. Its subspecific rank, under *H. magyricum* Nägeli & Peter, was more definitely stated in a

later treatment (Nägeli & Peter 1885). It was included by Zahn (1921-1923) in his "grex".

H. bauhinii was indicated by Lattanzi & Leporatti (1981) from Mt. Soratte (Latium); their observation is substantiated by material collected by Lusina in the same site. Lattanzi & Lucchese (1984) reported a further locality of this species near Fiuggi, but the material from this site clearly belongs to *H. praealtum* subsp. *thaumasium*. In addition, *H. bauhinii* is indicated by Bianchini (1987) in the Matese range at Passo Perrone, close to the geographical limit between central and southern Italy.

In order to clarify which species and subspecies of this complex occur in peninsular Italy, material kept in the herbaria of Florence (FI) and Rome (RO) was examined, together with my own gatherings from the provinces of Latium and Molise.

Specimens seen

Hieracium praealtum subsp. *bauhinii* (Besser) Petunnikov

Abruzzo: M. Lengiana, 1889, *Groves* (FI). — **Basilicata:** M. Lai, loc. "La Dogana" 3.6.1928, *Gavioli* (FI); Pignola, 3.6.1923, *Gavioli* (FI); Pignola, M. Petrucco, 3.6.1923, *Gavioli* (FI), Pignola, bosco Farnete; 7.6.1932, *Gavioli* (FI); Muro Lucano, 28.9.1888, A. Terracciano (RO). — **Calabria:** Sila, Camigliatello, 16.6.1950, *Sarfatti & Corradi* (FI); Sila al Timpone Morello, 15.6.1899, *Fiori* (FI); Fossiatà, 29.7.1918, *Fiori* (FI). — **Campania:** Solfatara di Pozzuoli, 15.5.1940, *sine coll.* (FI). — **Friuli-Venezia Giulia:** in pratis mont. Monajo, *Pirona* (FI). — **Lazio:** M. Soratte, 19.5.1933, *Lusina* (RO). — **Puglia:** Rodi, 19.5.1893, *Martelli* (FI).

Hieracium praealtum subsp. *thaumasium* (Peter) P. D. Sell

Basilicata: Potenza in silva Peltata, 10.6.1923, *Gavioli* (FI). — **Lazio:** Fiuggi alla Madonnina, 12.6.1983, *Lucchese & Lattanzi* (FI, RO). — **Molise:** Campobasso, at Montebello below the Monforte castle, 19.6.1989, *Lucchese* (RO).

Description of *Hieracium praealtum* subsp. *thaumasium* (Fig. 1)

Rosulate hemicryptophyte with rhizomes. Stem 25-45 cm high, striate, with one leaf in the lower portion, in the upper half with a single bract, sometimes forked; hairs patent or appressed, rather lax) stellate hairs scattered or irregularly assemblend. Stolons emerging from the base of the rosette; slender and flexuous, 30-40 cm long, bearing 7-9 leaves that are incurved at the apex, densely hairy (denser than the stems) with simple and stellate hairs. Basal leaves mostly oblanceolate, acute, or sometimes obovate and obtuse, 0.9-1.3 x 10-13 cm. Midrib abaxially raised; lateral veins 2-4, much thinner than the midrib; simple hairs on the upper face sparse, denser along the margins; on the lower face rarer and mostly confined to the veins; stellate hairs present only on the lower face, dense or sparse.

Stolon leaves smaller towards the apex, lanceolate to obovate, abaxially with dense stellate hairs. Stem leaf similar to the basal ones but smaller. Inflorescence lax, with 1-5 heads at different levels; acladium 5-10 mm long; peduncles covered with dark hairs; stellate hairs dense; simple hairs spaced and patent. Involucral bracts 0.8-1.0 x 5.5-7 mm, with scarious margins, dense stellate hairs and numerous glandular hairs; simple hairs scarce or completely lacking. Ligules yellow. Achenes 0.4 x 2.2 mm, striate with black and shiny, with a reddish glow.

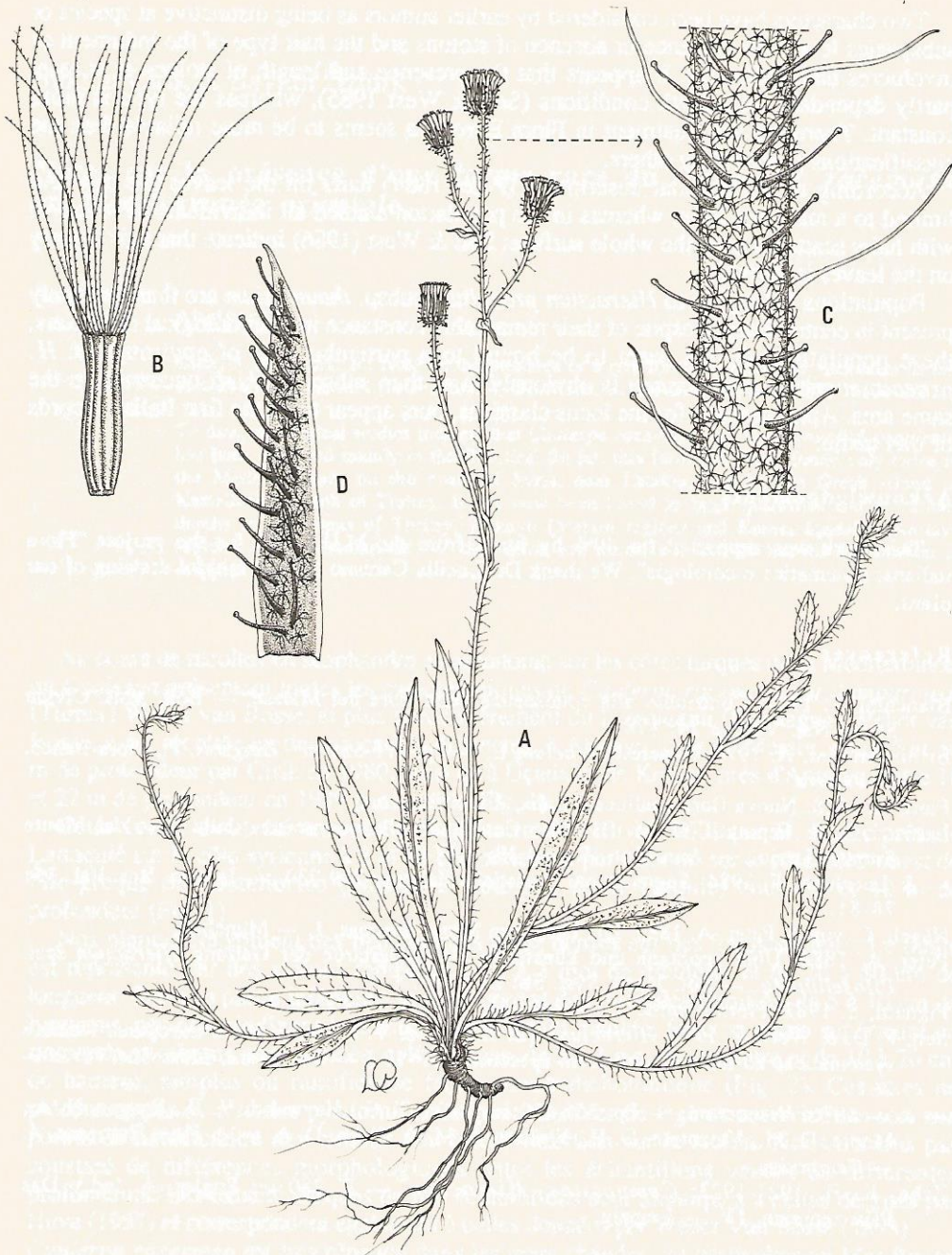


Fig. 1. *Hieracium praealtum* subsp. *thaumasium*. A: habitus (x 0.5); B: achene (x 10); C: stem with dark, stellate and simple hairs (x 15); D: involucre bract (x 10).

Conclusions

Two characters have been considered by earlier authors as being distinctive at species or subspecies level: the presence or absence of stolons and the hair type of the indument of involucre and peduncles. It appears that the presence and length of stolons is at least partly dependent on growth conditions (Sell & West 1985), whereas the type is more constant. Therefore the treatment in *Flora Europaea* seems to be more reliable than the classifications proposed by others.

According to the original description (Peter 1884) hairs on the leaves are rare and limited to a marginal zone, whereas in the population studied all individuals have leaves with hairs scattered over the whole surface; Sell & West (1986) indicate that hair density on the leaves is variable.

Populations belonging to *Hieracium praealtum* subsp. *thaumasium* are thus definitely present in central Italy. Despite of their remarkable constance in morphological characters, these populations do not seem to be bound to a particular type of environment. *H. praealtum* subsp. *thaumasium* is obviously rarer than subsp. *bauhinii* occurring in the same area. Apart perhaps for the locus classicus, ours appear to be the first Italian records of this taxon.

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