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### *Ophrys xmaladroxiensis*, a new natural hybrid from Sardinia

#### Abstract

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*Ophrys xmaladroxiensis*, a new natural hybrid between *O. holoserica* and *O. morisii*, is described. The new hybrid was found on the island of S. Antioco (southern Sardinia).

Extensive floristic investigations carried out over several years in Sardinia allowed us to establish its orchidologic inventory (Scrugli 1990) and gave us the opportunity to discover new hybrid entities which increases the number of those thus far recorded in Sardinia (Scrugli 1990, Scrugli & al. 1992).

In the present paper we describe the natural hybrid between *Ophrys holoserica* (Burman fil.) Greuter and *Ophrys morisii* (Martelli) Soó, the latter being endemic to Sardinia and Corsica. The new hybrid has been collected in the south-western part of Sardinia, on the island of S. Antioco, in a place named Maladroxia (from which the epithet is derived), on soil covered by debris of calcareous mesozoic mother rock surfacing intermittently over a vast area. Some specimens of the hybrid, along with plants of its parent species, were collected in clearings of the maquis of *Juniperus phoenicea* L., *Pistacia lentiscus* L., *Chamaerops humilis* L., *Calicotome villosa* (Poiret) Link, *Asparagus acutifolius* L. and *Phillyrea angustifolia* L.

Although the adjacent territory is heavily anthropized, the maquis showed no signs of deterioration; indeed in some spots it was flourishing. The new hybrid was found in association with the following orchids: *Aceras anthropophorum* (L.) R. Br. ex Aiton fil., *Ophrys bombyliflora* Link, *O. fusca* Link subsp. *iricolor* (Desf.) K. Richter, *O. holoserica*, *O. lutea* Cav. subsp. *minor* (Tod.) O. Danesch & E. Danesch, *O. morisii*, *O. tenthredinifera* Willd., *O. vernixia* Brot. and *Orchis lactea* Poiret.

*Ophrys xmaladroxiensis* Scrugli, Todde & Cogoni, **nothosp. nat. nov.** [*O. holoserica* (Burman fil.) Greuter x *O. morisii* (Martelli) Soó] (Fig. 1, 2). — Holotypus: Sardinia, S. Antioco, loco vulgo Maladroxia dicto, 29.3. 1991, Scrugli, Todde & Cogoni (CAG). Paratypus: ibidem, 06.4. 1992, Scrugli, Todde & Cogoni (CAG).



Fig. 1. *Ophrys x maladroxiensis*, holotypus.

Planta gracilis, 200 mm alta. Folia 2, oblonga, erecta; inferius liberum, 95 x 10 mm, superius parvius amplexicauleque. Inflorescentia biflora. Bracteae lineari-lanceolatae, ovario paulo longiores. Flores 25 mm longi. Sepala lanceolata (10 x 5 mm), reflexa ut in *O. morisii*, alba, plus minusve rosea, nervo viridi longitudinaliter sulcata. Petala oblongo-lanceolata, circiter dimidio breviora quam sepala et concoloria, margine pubescente. Labellum integrum, planum, velutinum, fere trapeziforme, 14 x 11 mm, *O. holosericae* simile, fuscum; gibbae vix eminentes, ciliatae; speculum simplex, H-formis, *O. morisii* simile; labelli apex planus, viridi-flavus, sursum spectans ut in *O. holoserica*; calla basalia hemispherica, *O. morisii* similia. Gynandrium rostro brevi acutoque.

Floret mensibus Martio atque Aprili.



Fig. 2. *O. xmaladroxiensis* (middle), between the parental species, *O. holoserica* (left) and *O. morisii* (right).<sup>1</sup>

Plant slender, up to 200 mm long. Leaves two, oblong, erect; the lower free, up to 95 mm long and 10 broad, the upper smaller and amplexicaul. Inflorescence with two flowers. Bracts linear-lanceolate, slightly longer than ovary. Flowers up to 25 mm long. Sepals 10 x 5 mm, lanceolate, reflexed as in *Ophrys morisii*, white, with a light pink shade, longitudinally green-nerved. Petals oblong-lanceolate, about half as long as the sepals and concolorous, with a hairy margin. Labellum entire, flat, velvety, almost trapezoidal and similar to that of *O. holoserica*, 14 mm long, 11 mm broad, dark brown, lateral lobes very slightly prominent and hairy outside. Speculum simple, H-shaped as in *O. morisii*; apex of labellum flat, yellowish-green, up-folding as in *O. holoserica*. Stigmatic cave bearing two hemispherical basal calli as in *O. morisii*. Gynandrium with a short and acute beak. Flowers in March-April.

*Notes:* — The specimens examined show a clear polymorphism, which could be due either to backcrossing or to the natural variability of *Ophrys morisii*.

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#### References

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