

***Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra (*Pottiaceae*, Musci), new to Italy**

Michele ALEFFI^{a*}, Marko SABOVLJEVIC^b, Roberta TACCHI^a

^a *Dipartimento di Botanica ed Ecologia, Università di Camerino, Via Pontoni 5, 62032 Camerino (MC), Italia*

^b *Department of Plant Ecology and Phytogeography, Institute of Botany, Faculty of Biology, University of Belgrade, Takovska 43, 11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia*

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Abstract – A new moss species, *Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra, has been identified for the bryophyte flora of Italy. The species was gathered in the coastal area of Regional Park of Monte Conero, on the Adriatic Sea (Marche, Central Italy) and along the coastal area of National Park of Gargano (Puglia, Southern Italy).

***Didymodon sicculus* / *Pottiaceae* / Italy / distribution / ecology**

Résumé – Une nouvelle espèce de mousses, *Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra, a été enregistrée pour la flore de bryophyte de l'Italie. Elle a été récoltée dans la côte adriatique, zones du Parc Régional de Monte Conero (Marche, Italie centrale) et du Parc National de Gargano (Pouille, Italie méridionale).

***Didymodon sicculus* / *Pottiaceae* / Italie / distribution / écologie**

Riassunto – Una nuova specie di muschi, *Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra, viene segnalata per la flora briologica d'Italia. La specie è stata raccolta lungo il litorale adriatico del Parco Regionale del Monte Conero (Marche, Italia centrale) e del Parco Nazionale del Gargano (Puglia, Italia meridionale).

***Didymodon sicculus* / *Pottiaceae* / Italia / distribuzione / ecologia**

INTRODUCTION

The bryophyte flora of Italy is quite well known (Cortini Pedrotti, 2001; Aleffi & Schumacker, 1995). However, some new bryophyte records for Italy have been made recently (Cortini Pedrotti, 2001b).

* Correspondence and reprints: michele.aleffi@unicam.it

During recent bryophyte research (spring 2002) on Regional Park of Monte Conero, some coastal zones were investigated. On loamy soils at the edge of the slopes of Monte Conero a few patches of *Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra were collected in three localities. Additionally, one record was made in the coastal zone of the Gargano Promontory.

NEW LOCALITIES

Italy: Marche, Regional Park of Monte Conero, coastal zone close to Portonovo, 33TUIJ82, 5 m, on loamy and saline soil along the coast, in partially shaded and wet sites, *M. Aleffi & M. Sabovljevic*, 29.04.2002; **Regional Park of Monte Conero** coastal zone along the path to “Due Sorelle”, 33TUIJ82, 30 m, on loamy soil, in sunny and dry sites, *M. Aleffi, M. Sabovljevic & R. Tacchi* 17.05.2002; **Regional Park of Monte Conero, Sirolo**, along the “Passo del Lupo” road, 33TUIJ82, 50 m, on loamy soil, in sunny and dry sites, *M. Aleffi, M. Sabovljevic & R. Tacchi* 17.05.2002.

Italy: Puglia, National Park of Gargano, on the coastal zone of Rodi Garganico, 33TWG74, 10 m, on loamy soil along the coast, in partial shade, *M. Sabovljevic*, 24.05.2002.

All the specimens of Italian *Didymodon sicculus* are kept in CAME and BEOU.

DISTRIBUTION

According to records to date, *Didymodon sicculus* has a scattered Mediterranean range. Besides various localities in Spain (Cano *et al.*, 1996; Cano *et al.*, 2001), it was also noted in Greece (Blockeel *et al.*, 2002).

The new record in Italy somewhat fills in the gap in its Mediterranean distribution. With further bryophyte investigations it is likely to be reported in other Mediterranean countries (Fig. 1).

ECOLOGY

Type specimens and Spanish material are known from dry, loamy, saline or gypsiferous soils, in markedly xerophytic communities of the order *Tortulo-Aloinetalia bifrontis* (Ros & Guerra, 1987), associated with other pottiaceous genera.

The Italian specimens were growing in partial shade on saline and/or loamy soil quite close to the sea line (ca 10 m), or on dry and sunny or partially shaded loam slopes. The patches were quite isolated and the other species collected at the site were scattered and not growing jointly.

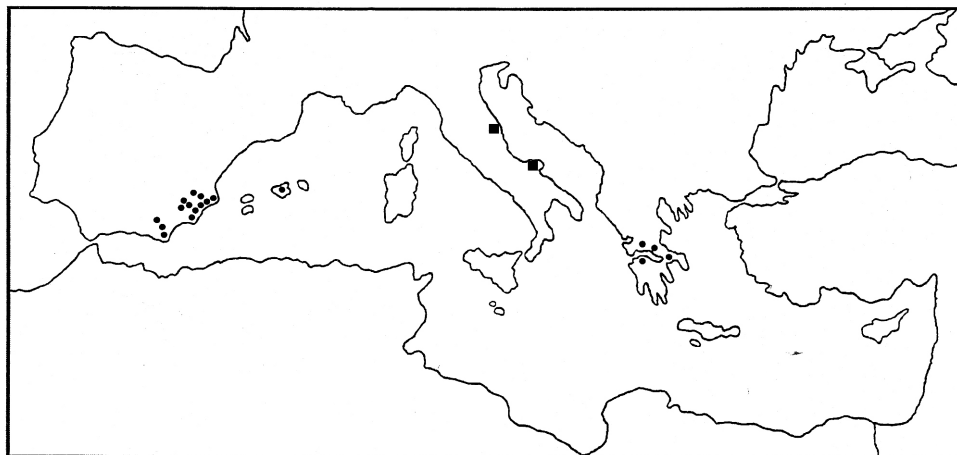


Fig. 1. Present worldwide range of *Didymodon sicculus* M.J. Cano, Ros, García-Zamora & J. Guerra. Black squares indicate the localities from Italy.

In the same site, it was possible to collect some other *Didymodon* species (e.g., *D. acutus* (Brid.) K. Saito, *D. vinealis* (Brid.) R.H. Zander) and, in steeper areas with limestone loamy soil, some specimens of *Aloina aloides* (Schultz) Kindb., *A. ambigua* (Bruch. & Schimp.) Limpr., *Dicranella howei* Renaud & Cardot and *Weissia triumphans* (De Not.) M.O. Hill were seen.

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