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Collections and collectors in the Herbarium Siculum of Palermo

Abstract

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In view of the setting up of the Herbarium Mediterraneum collections, the Herbarium Siculum of the Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche (PAL) has been inventoried. It consists of c. 38,000 mainly historical specimens and includes V. Tineo's and A. Todaro's herbaria, along with collections made by 85 botanists in Sicily and on the surrounding islands, as tabulated here. Samples of characteristic hand-written labels are reproduced. Although 35 specialists can be listed who revised particular genera, a critical review of the whole collection is still needed. A map of the more frequently visited collecting sites is provided.

Introduction

The Sicilian collections in the herbarium of the Dipartimento di Scienze Botaniche of the University of Palermo (PAL) form a separate section, the Herbarium Siculum. This section was designed to form part of the Herbarium Mediterraneum consequent to its foundation in 1987 (Raimondo 1993). In view of its transfer to its new location, we have made an inventory of the Herbarium Siculum. The results are presented hereunder: overall size of the collection, and lists of the collectors represented, of genera revised by specialists, and of the principal collecting sites.

History

The early collections brought together since 1790 by G. Tineo Ragusa, Ucria, Rafinesque, Bivona, and other Sicilian botanists, and kept at the Palermo Botanical Garden, were lost during the fights of the Sicilian uprising of 1820-1821. The first surviving nucleus of importance is thus Vincenzo Tineo's (1791-1856) post-1821 collection. To this, the herbarium of A. Todaro (1818-1892) was later added, which included material collected in the first half of 19th Century by Urville, Gasparrini, Gussone, Heldreich, Huet du Pavillon, Inzenga, Lacaita, Lehmann, Minà Palumbo, Parlato, Sorrentino, and others. In the second half of the 19th century, further remarkable materials contributed

Table 1. Collectors represented in the Herbarium Siculum of Palermo, their life data and country of origin or birth (when known), and their collecting localities (numbered as in Fig. 11).

Collector's name	(life data)	origin	collecting localities
Adamo			15
Alexander, C.			
Angelo, P. G.			2
Baccarini, P.	(1858-1919)	Italy	
Battandier, J.A.	(1848-1922)	France	
Béguinot, A.	(1875-1950)	Italy	3
Belli, S.	(1852-1919)	Italy	15
Bianca, G.	(1801-1883)	Sicily	
Bischoff, G. W.	(1797-1854)	Germany	14
Bivona - Bernardi, A.	(1774-1837)	Sicily	13
Bonafede			1 7 18 19 20 22 25
Borzi, A.	(1852-1921)	Sicily	
Calcara, P.	(1819-1854)	Sicily	2 3 6 20
Camarrone, V.	(1919-)	Sicily	
Catalano		Sicily	1
Cavara, F.	(1857-1929)	Italy	
Citarda ²			2 5 7 8 9 10 12 13 14 16 18 19 23 24 25 27
D'Africa, G.		Sicily	
Di Giovanni			1
Di Martino, A.	(1926-)	Sicily	1 2 5 7 8 13 14 20 23 25 26
Dumont d'Urville, J.S.C.	(1790-1842)	France	
Duthie, J. F.	(1845-1922)	U. K.	
Errera, L. A.	(1858-1905)	Sicily	23
Failla L. ³			7
Gasparrini, G.	(1804-1866)	Italy	1 5 7 9
Gibelli, G.	(1831-1898)	Italy	
Greco			
Guggino			1
Gussone, G.	(1787-1866)	Italy	1 5 14
Heidenreich, F. A.	(1819-1901)	Russia	
Heldreich, T. von	(1822-1902)	Germany	7 13 15 16 17 19
Huet du Pavillon, A.	(1829-1907)	France	6 7 22 24
Inzenga, G.	(1816-1887)	Sicily	6 13 14 15 16 25
Khantibugel			
Kralik, J. L.	(1813-1892)	France	
La Cavera			
Lacaita, C. C.	(1853-1933)	U.K.	7 14 16 25
Lamantia			24 25
Lanza, D.	(1869-1940)	Sicily	1 7 2
Lehmann, J. G. C.	(1792-1860)	Germany	25
Lo Forte, G. ²			1
Lojacono Pojero, M.	(1853-1919)	Sicily	1 2 3 4 5 7 8 9 10 11 14 15 16 20 21 22 23 25
Malfitano, G.			15
Mancuso			6
Mandralisca	(1809-1864)	Sicily	7 11
Marchesini			22
Mariani, D.			22

Martorana

20

Table 1 (continued).

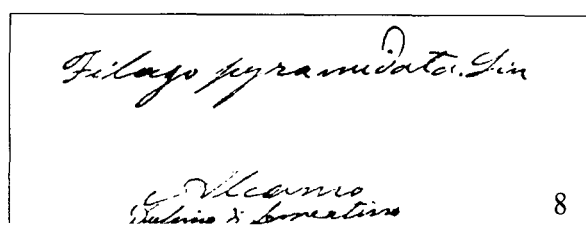
Collector's name	(life data)	origin	collecting localities
Mattei, G. E.	(1865-1943)	Italy	
Mazzola, P.	(1945-)	Sicily	
Messina, V. ²			3
Minà Palumbo, F.	(1814-1899)	Sicily	7
Murbeck, S. S.	(1859-1946)	Sweden	
Nicotra, L.	(1846-1940)	Italy	14
Ottonello, D.	(1849-)	Sicily	
Parisi			1
Parlatore, F.	(1816-1877)	Italy	1 7 2
Perrone, C.	(1932-)	Sicily	24 25
Piraino, E. barone di			
Ponzo, A.	(1876-1944)	Sicily	18 25
Porcari, A.	(1826-1883)	Sicily	1 2 4 5 6 8 9 10 13 14 15 16 19 20 22 23 24 27
Prestandrea, A.			13
Raimondo, F. M.	(1944-)	Sicily	2 7
Reina, G. ²			1 2 5 4 7 13 15 18 19 22 24 25 26
Rhumer			
Riccobono, A. ²			1 8 9 14 27
Roccella			9 11
Romano, S.	(1953-)	Sicily	
Romeo, V.			13
Ross, H.	(1862-1942)	Germany	1 6 7 14 15 19 23 24 25 26
Sangermano, L.			
Schlimberger			
Senni, L.	(1879-1954).	Italy	2
Serra			13
Sommier, C. P. S.	(1848-1922)	Italy	20
Sorrentino Duca di ¹	(?-1865)	Sicily	1 2 14 26
Sortino, M.	(1939-)	Sicily	7
Steinberg, C.	(1923-1981)	Belgium	
Strobl, P. G.	(1846-1925)	Austria	7 14
Sturniolo ²			
Tenore, M.	(1780-1861)	Italy	
Terracciano, A.	(1862-1917)	Italy	2 7
Tineo, V.	(1791-1856)	Sicily	1 4 6 7 9 11 13 14 15 17 18 20 21 23 25 26
Todaro, A.	(1818-1892)	Sicily	1 2 3 4 6 7 5 8 9 12 13 14 16 17 18 19 20 22 23 24 25 26 27
Tornabene, F.	(1813-1897)	Sicily	14 15
Zodda, G.	(1877-1968)	Sicily	7 9 11 13 14 20

¹ Chacon Francesco duca di Sorrentino, Todaro's correspondent.² 19th Century collectors on the Palermo Botanical Garden's staff.³ Entomologist and pupil of F. Minà Palumbo.

by Borzì, Gibelli, Lacaita, Murbeck, Nicotra, Ross, Sommer, Strobl, Terracciano, etc. contributed to enlarging the herbarium.

Each of these collections was kept apart, all being stored, alongside with the Herbarium Generale, in the Garden's so-called Gymnasium building. In the first decades of this

century the Sicilian herbaria plus the Sicilian specimens (except for a few duplicates: see Bruno 1954) extracted from the Herbarium Generale – thus left to include the non-insular exsiccata – were assembled into a coherent regional collection.



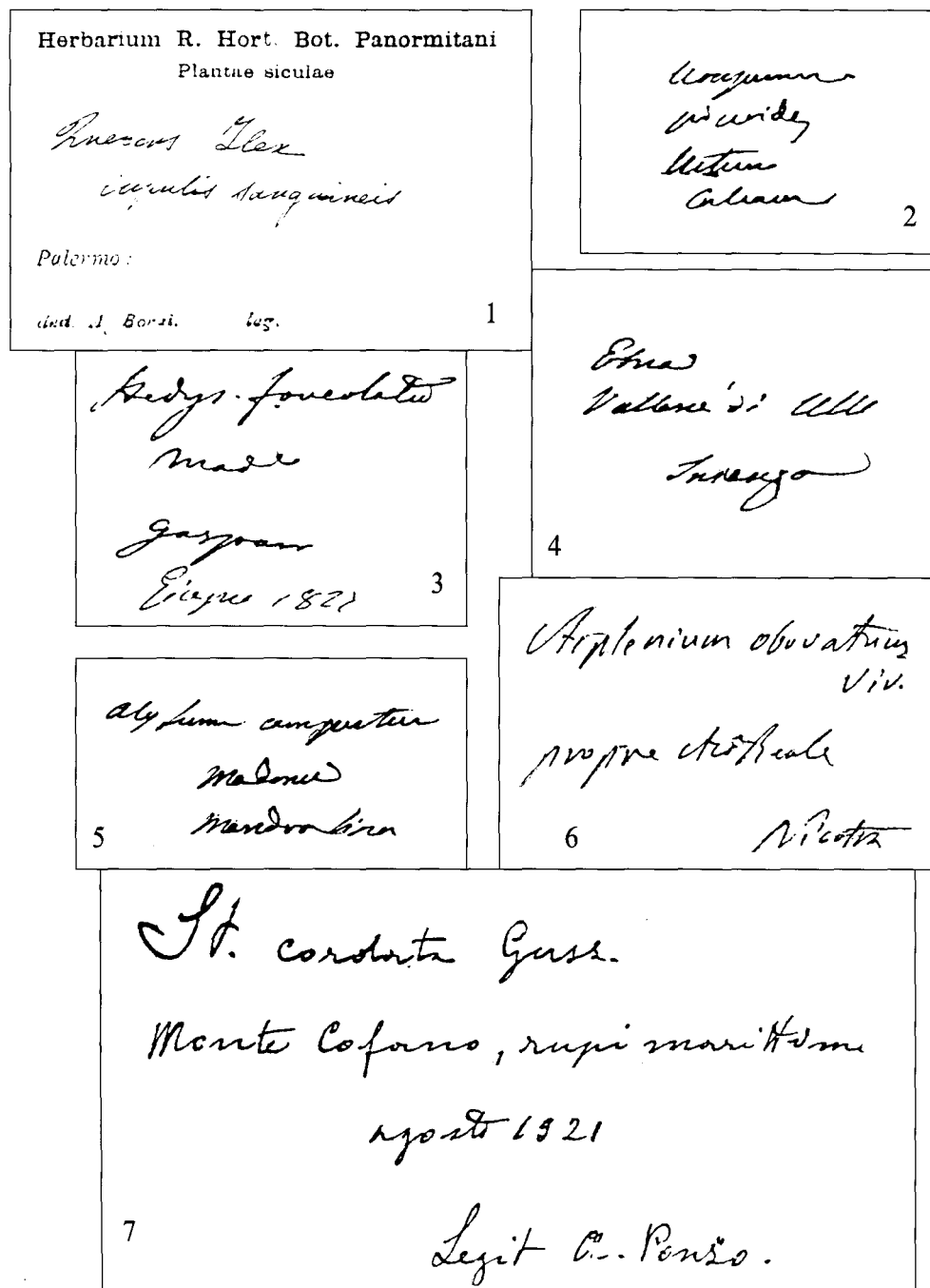


Fig. 1-7. Hand-written labels from the Herbarium Siculum of Palermo. – 1, Borzi; 2, Calcara; 3, Gasparrini; 4, Inzenga; 5, Mandralisca Piraino; 6, Nicotra; 7, Ponso.

Table 2. Specialists having revised particular taxa in the Herbarium Siculum o Palermo, with their country of origin and herbarium affiliation of the time (se Holmgren & al. 1990)

Specialist	country (herb.)	Taxon	Specialist	country (herb.)	Taxon
Andrews, S.	U.K. (K)	<i>Ilex</i>	Lanfranco, E.	Malta	<i>Desmazeria</i>
Auquier, P.	Belgium	<i>Vulpia</i>	Lidén, M.	Sweden (GB)	<i>Fumaria</i>
Bothmer, R. v.	Sweden (LD)	<i>Hordeum</i>	Marchetti, D.	Italy (SIENA)	<i>Asplenium</i>
Brullo, S.	Italy (CAT)	<i>Allium</i>	Mazzola, P.	Italy (PAL)	<i>Dactylorhiza</i>
Cela - Renzoni, G.	Italy (PI)	<i>Centaurea</i>	Mennema, J.	Netherlands (L)	<i>Lamium</i>
Christensen, K. I.	Denmark (C)	<i>Crataegus</i>	Moraldo, B.	Italy (NAP)	<i>Stipa</i>
Chrtková-Žertová, A.	Czechoslovakia (PR)	<i>Lotus</i>	Nardi, E.	Italy (FI)	<i>Athyrium, Aristolochia</i>
Corrias, B.	Italy (SS)	<i>Orchis</i>	Onno, M.	Germany	<i>Daucus</i>
Cuccuini, P.	Italy (FI)	<i>Parapholis</i>	Pignatti, S.	Italy (RO)	<i>Limonium</i>
Frederiksen, S.	Denmark (C)	<i>Taeniatherum</i>	Polatschek, A.	Austria (W)	<i>Erysimum</i>
Goldblatt, P.	U.S.A. (MO)	<i>Gynandris</i>	Raffaelli, M.	Italy (FI)	<i>Parietaria, Biscutella</i>
Greuter, W.	Germany (B)	<i>Ptylostemon</i>	Raimondo F. M.	Italy (PAL)	<i>Ulmus, Brassica</i>
Ietswaart	Netherlands (AMD)	<i>Origanum</i>	Ricceri, C.	Italy (FI)	<i>Eragrostis</i>
Jacobsen, N.	Denmark (C)	<i>Hordeum</i>	Schotsman, H. D.	France (P)	<i>Callitriche</i>
Janmonod, D.	Switzerland (G)	<i>Silene</i>	Segelberg, I.	Sweden	<i>Trifolium</i>
Kerguelen, M.	France (P)	<i>Vulpia</i>	Steinberg, C.	Italy (FI)	<i>Adonis</i>
Kurtto, A.	Finland (H)	<i>Symphytum</i>	Valsecchi, F.	Italy (SS)	<i>Genista</i>
Lack, H. W.	Germany (B)	<i>Helminthotheca</i>	Viegi, P.	Italy (PI)	<i>Centaurea</i>

Subsequently, collections of some importance were made after 1950, mainly by Di Martino. A small herbarium assembled around 1850 by Porcari was incorporated into the Herbarium Siculum after 1960 (De Leo 1965). The bulk of the recently collected materials, quite sizeable, awaits being included and is not considered here.

Inventory

The present survey of the Herbarium Siculum results in an overview of the collectors represented besides providing a picture of the main floristic and taxonomic research activities of 19th Century Sicily.

Presently, the Herbarium Siculum totals about 38,000 labelled specimens of pteridophytes and spermatophytes, of considerable historical interest. All but a handful (less than 10) earlier ones date from after 1821. The labels examined show that this material was gathered by 85 different collectors, as listed in Table 1. Of these, 59 are known botanists documented in the relevant literature (Chaudhri & al. 1972, Lanjouw & Stafleu 1954-1957, Saccardo 1895, Stafleu & Cowan 1976-1988, Steinberg 1977, Vegter 1976-1988, Nepi & Cuccuini 1992, La Valva 1993). Some samples of their hand-written labels are here reproduced (Fig. 1-11), to supplement other published collections of facsimile handwritings of botanists (Burdet 1979, Wagenitz 1982). The remaining 26 collectors are mainly staff members of the Palermo Botanical Garden, or occasional local correspondents.

Recent interest of botanists in these collections is borne out by the fact that several genera have been critically studied and revised by specialist, as documented by their relevant annotations, although their inventory (Table 2) cannot claim to be exhaustive. Also, much critical revision is still needed, and there is ample scope for work by future visitors.

The Herbarium includes the types of most names of Sicilian taxa described by V. Tineo and Todaro. Lojacono Pojero is known to have based most of his diagnoses of new taxa on specimens collected by the two former botanists. In most cases, no lectotypes have yet been designated.

The collecting localities of the specimens in the Herbarium Siculum, and therefore the areas visited by early Sicilian botanists, are mainly situated in the northern and eastern parts of the island (Fig. 12). In particular, Palermo and its neighbourhoods, the Madonie and Nebrodi mountains, Messina and its surroundings, Mt Etna, the southern coast between Siracusa and Ragusa, and the Trapani area were visited. Some collecting also

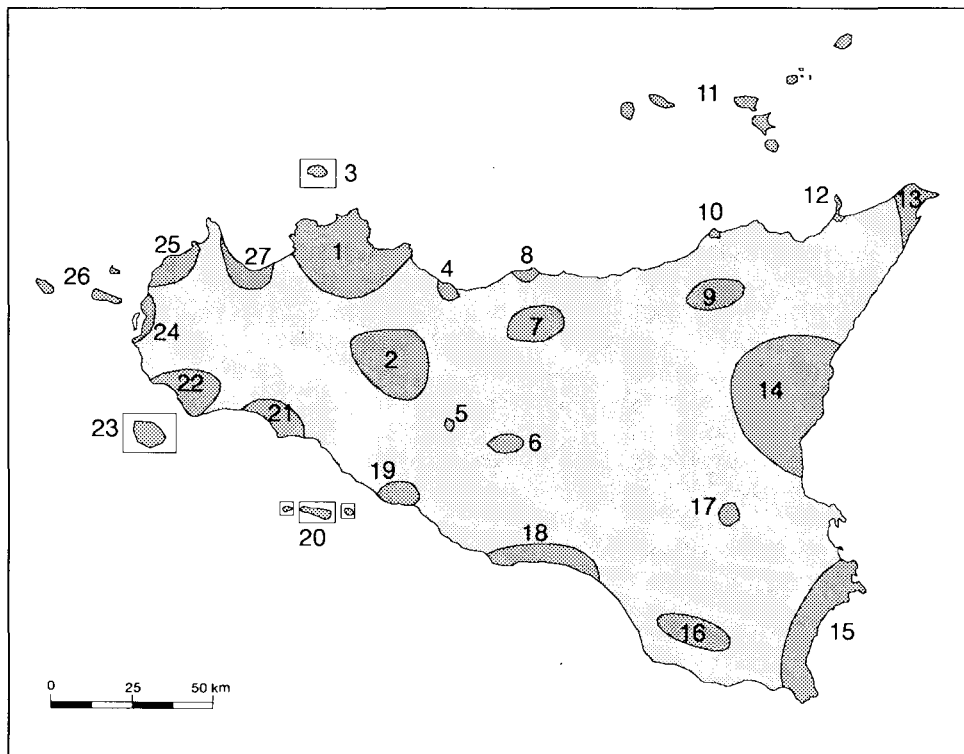


Fig. 12. Areas from which most collections in the Herbarium Siculum of Palermo originate. – 1, Palermo and surroundings; 2, Ficuzza-Busambra; 3, Ustica island; 4, Termini Imerese; 5, Mt Cammarata; 6, Caltanissetta; 7, Madonie mountains; 8, Cefalù; 9, Nebrodi mountains; 10, Cape Orlando; 11, Aeolian islands; 12, Milazzo; 13, Messina; 14, Catania and Mt Aetna; 15, Syracuse-Noto region; 16, Ragusa; 17, Militello; 18, Gela-Licata area; 19, Agrigento; 20, Pelagie islands; 21, Sciacca; 22, Selinunte-Mazara del Vallo-region; 23, Island of Pantelleria; 24, Marsala; 25, Trapani; 26, Egadi islands; 27, Castellammare.

concerned the lesser islands: the Aeolian, the Egadi and the Pelagie archipelagos, and some islets off the southern coast. The interior of Sicily, outside of a few restricted areas such as Caltanissetta and Cammarata, was left untouched in the 19th Century. On the whole, the historical label data yield the same picture as present-day botanical activity and the resulting pattern of floristic knowledge of the Sicilian territory (Raimondo 1988).

Acknowledgements

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