

DUILIO IAMONICO & EDDA LATTANZI†

Typification of the name *Rosa viscosa* Jan ex Guss. (*Rosaceae*), an endemic species from southern Italy**Abstract**

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The name *Rosa viscosa* (*Rosaceae*), published by G. Gussone in 1818 in *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum* is here lectotypified on a specimen preserved at the Herbarium NAP. *Rosa viscosa* is an endemic species to southern Italy where is currently recorded with certainty only in the Calabria region. However, Gussone described *R. viscosa* from the Madonie mountains (locus classicus), a calcareous massif occurring in Sicily. The lectotype here designated, therefore, confirms the occurrence in Sicily as historical record. A clarification about the occurrence of the species in Central Italy is provided.

Key words: Calabria, Gussone, historical occurrence, Madonie mountains, *Rosa*, Sicily.

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Introduction

The genus *Rosa* L. [*Rosoideae* (Juss.) Arn., *Rosaceae* Juss.] comprises 200–285 species mainly distributed throughout the temperate and sub-tropical regions of northern hemisphere (half of the roses occurs in Asia, whereas approximately a quarter of the species grows in Europe and North America); one species is recorded in tropical Africa (Gu & Robertson 2003; Fougère-Danezan & al. 2015; POWO 2025).

Roses have been cultivated for more than 2000 years (see Guoliang 2003) and are now day economically important being used as ornamental shrubs and cut flowers and for pharmaceutical research (see e.g., Jager & al. 2007; Guimaraes & al. 2010).

Rosa is a genus critical from the taxonomical point of view due to the high phenotypic variability, as well as the high amount of hybridization (Fougère-Danezan & al. 2015). This morphological variability led to the

description of hundreds of names (IPNI 2025+; Tropicos 2025+) and, consequently, nomenclatural disorders and misapplication of names occur.

The Italian flora includes 41 native taxa of the genus *Rosa* (Bartolucci & al. 2024) of which one (*R. viscosa* Jan ex Guss.) is endemic to southern Italy (Peruzzi & al. 2015); further 13 species are alien (Galasso & al. 2024).

As part of ongoing studies on endemics of Italy (see e.g. Iamónico & al. 2011, 2022; Sciuto & al. 2023), and the genus *Rosa* (see e.g. Lattanzi 2012; Lattanzi & al. 2003, 2006, Pavesi & al. 2007), we noted that *R. viscosa* is currently recorded only for one region, i.e. Calabria, whereas it was firstly described by Gussone (1818: 8) from the Madonie mountains, a calcareous massif occurring in Sicily. Moreover, Gussone's name does not appear still typified (see also Peruzzi & al. 2015). All things considered, we here present a nomenclatural note regarding the typification of *Rosa viscosa* and update its distribution.

Materials and methods

The work is based on the analysis of the relevant literature (protologues included) and the examination of the specimens preserved in the Herbaria NAP, where Gussone's herbarium and types are mainly preserved (see Stafleu & Cowan 1976: 1025 and HUH-Index of Botanists 2013) and in the personal collection of Lattanzi which was recently included in the Herbarium RO (codes according to Thiers 2025+).

The articles cited throughout the text are those of the *Madrid Code*, hereafter reported as "ICN" (Turland & al. 2025).

Typification

Gussone (1818: 8) validly published the name *Rosa viscosa* providing a short diagnosis, the habitat ("In apricis montosis"), and the type locality ("Madonie", which are mountains occurring in north of Sicily); a morphological comparison with *R. rubiginosa* L. was also given. Gussone (1818: 8) reported after the binomial "Jan. Cat. p. 8, ex ejus specimine" so referring to a Jan's specimen; this citation is a syntype according to the Art. 9.6 of ICN.

According to Stafleu & Cowan (1976: 1025), Gussone's collection is mainly preserved at NAP and secondly at FI, whereas further material is preserved in other European (not Italian) herbaria. At NAP we traced only one useful specimen for the typification purpose (Fig. 1). It bears the following two labels: "(2a) *Rosa viscosa*. Jan cat. p. 8 | Majo, Junio h | In apricis montosis", and "*Rosa viscosa* | Herb. Jan. Gen. 448 spec. 45 | Sicilia | B.". Although the date of collection is lacking the specimen is clearly part of Jan's herbarium and was seen by G. Gussone. We consider this specimen as part of the original material used by Gussone to describe *Rosa viscosa*. The plant on the sheet (a terminal part of a branch with leaves, calyx, and

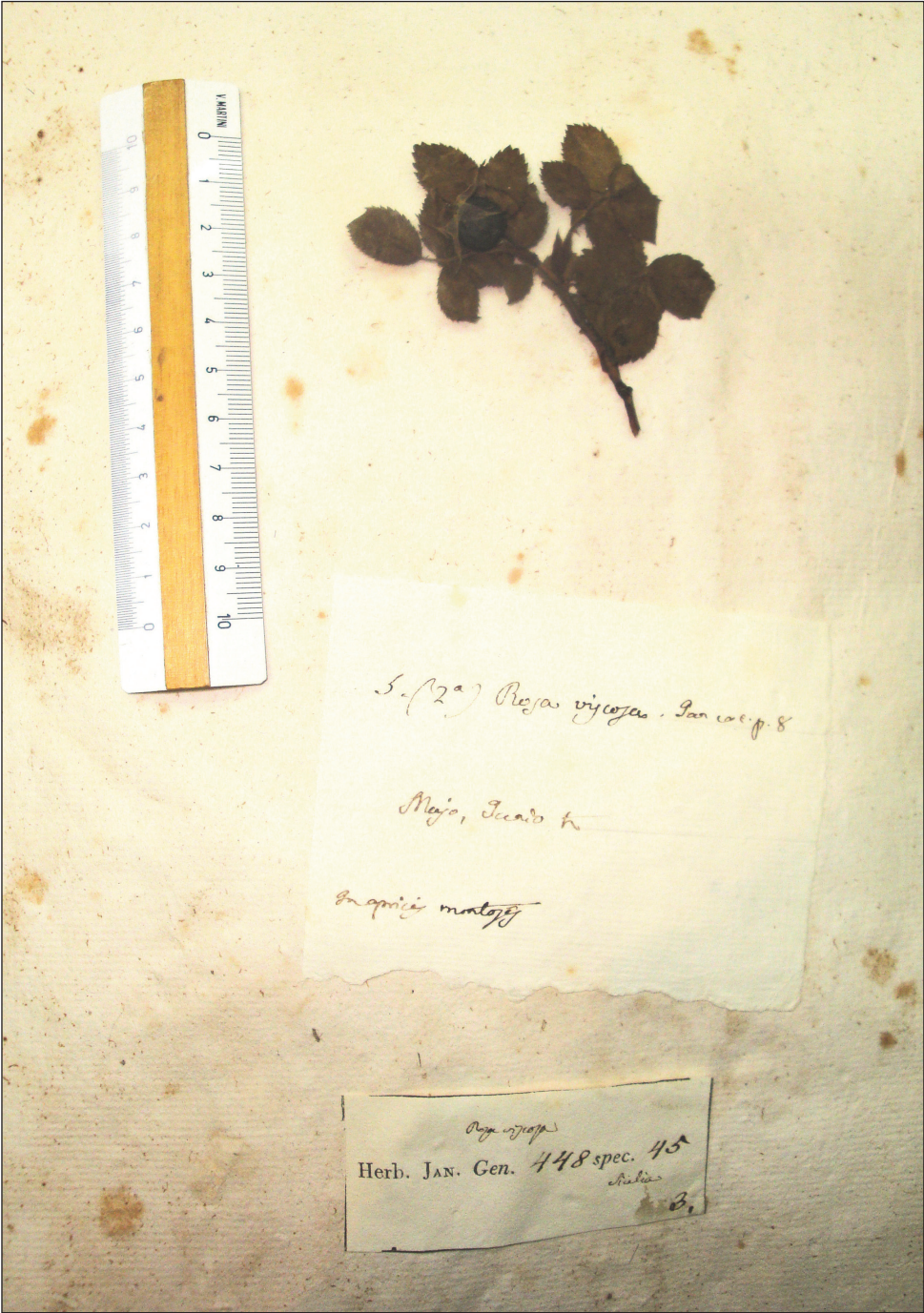


Fig. 1. Lectotype of *Rosa viscosa* (NAP; by permission of the Director of Herbarium of University Federico II of Naples).

fruit) morphologically matches Gussone's diagnosis and corresponds to the current concept of the species (see e.g., Lattanzi 2019a, 2019b). We here designate the NAP specimen as the lectotype of *Rosa viscosa*.

Rosa viscosa Jan ex Guss., Cat. Pl. Phaen.: 8. 1818.

Lectotype (designated here):—ITALY. Sicily, Madonie, *s.d.*, *Jan s.n.* (NAP, Fig. 1)

Distribution. The Portal of the Flora of Italy (2025) reports *Rosa viscosa* for Calabria region (southern Italy) and, as doubtful record, in Sicily. To note that the species was reported by mistake in Abruzzo region (central Italy); F. Bartolucci (pers. comm.) informed us that the occurrence in central Italy was based by Di Pietro & Tondi (2005: 18) who reported the species for Lazio region (indicated in Abruzzo by mistake by Bartolucci et al. 2015, 2024); the correct species was, however, *R. pulverulenta* M.Bieb. based on a revision by one of us (E. Lattanzi). Anyway, Di Pietro & Tondi (2005: 15, Appendix 4) referred to localities in Lazio region (Province of Rieti), not Abruzzo. Our research allowed to confirm the occurrence of Gussone's rose in the island of Sicily, at least as historical presence. So, this species remains to be one of the rarest roses for the Italian flora (see also Lattanzi 2012). In fact, *Rosa viscosa* is currently classified as an Endangered Species according to Rossi & al. (2020).

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The author (Edda Lattanzi), expert in the genus *Rosa*, died (on October 17, 2025) during the preparation of the article. Due to her expertise, Edda's death is a bad loss for the scientific community, but, more important, we lost a generous, congenial, hardheaded, and hot-blooded, who we never forget. Goodbye Edda.

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