

Duilio Iamónico & Angelo Troia

Notes on the typification of the name *Rosa viscosa* (*Rosaceae*) and clarification about the publication in which the name was firstly published

Abstract

Iamónico, D. & Troia, A.: Notes on the typification of the name *Rosa viscosa* (*Rosaceae*) and clarification about the publication in which the name was firstly published. — Fl. Medit. 36: 107-111. 2026. — ISSN: 1120-4052 printed, 2240-4538 online.

The name *Rosa viscosa* (*Rosaceae*), validly published by Gussone in his *Supplementum ad Florae Siculae Prodromum*, was recently lectotypified by Iamónico & Lattanzi on a specimen included in Jan's collection and preserved at the Herbarium NAP. These authors provided an erroneous indication of the original reference of the name, citing Jan's *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum, ad Usum Botanophilorum Exsiccatarum* (published in 1818) instead of Gussone's *Supplementum ad Florae Siculae Prodromus* (published in 1832). Actually, the name *R. viscosa* does not appear in Jan's Catalogus, while we traced it into a later published catalogue, i.e. Jan's *Elenchum Plantarum* (published in 1831). However, *R. viscosa* is there invalid being a *nomen nudum*. So, since the name reported in the taxonomic treatment by Iamónico & Lattanzi is linked to a reference (Jan's *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum*) where that name does not occur, the typification would not be applicable, and a revision is here proposed. It should be noted that a clear indication in the Madrid Code as to how to handle a situation like this does not appear. Furthermore, we noted that Jan's catalogue is reported as original reference of *R. viscosa* by all the major databases of plant names and other sources, whereas Jan's *Elenchus* is never cited.

Key words: *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum*, Giorgio Jan, Gussone, *Elenchum Plantarum*, endemic species, Madrid Code, original reference, *Rosa*, typification.

Article history: Received 10 March 2026; received in revised form 12 June 2026; accepted 16 June 2026; published 19 June 2026.

Introduction

The name *Rosa viscosa* Jan ex Guss. (*Rosaceae* Juss.), referring to a species endemic to southern Italy, was validly published by Gussone (1832: 156) and recently lectotypified by Iamónico & Lattanzi (2025) on a specimen belonging to Jan's herbarium and stored at NAP (herbarium code according to Thiers 2026+). However, the citation “*Rosa viscosa* Jan ex Guss., Cat. Pl. Phaen.: 8. 1818” provided by Iamónico & Lattanzi (2025: 236) is erroneous. The indicated source corresponds to Jan's *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum*,

ad Usum Botanophilorum Exsiccatarum (Jan 1818), in which no new *Rosa* name appears neither on page 8 (as indicate by Iamonico & Lattanzi 2025: 236 and Gussone 1838: 156) nor on pages 55 and 78 (where the genus *Rosa* was mentioned) (Fig. 1). Anyway, Jan actually published the name *Rosa viscosa* in his *Elenchus plantarum quae in Horto Ducale Botanico Parmensi anno MDCCCXXVI coluntur* (Jan 1831: 8). There, on page 8, it was reported “45 viscosa 4) s S” - where “45” indicates the number of the species reported also on the exsiccatum, “s” that the plant was collected in the wild, and “S” means “Sicily” (Jan 1831: 1). In addition, we know from Jan (1831: 1) that at least one plant was collected in Sicily in 1825, confirming what we know about Jan’s expeditions along Italy (Alippi Cappelletti, 2004). However, Jan (1831: 8) did not provide any description or diagnosis for his *Rosa viscosa*, and, therefore, the name was not validly published in Jan’s work under Art. 38.1 (*nomen nudum*) of the *Madrid Code* (Turland & al. 2025, hereafter reported as ICN).

The number “45”, as reported in Jan’s (1818: 8) *Elenchus plantarum*, appears also in the label of the lectotype at NAP designated by Iamonico & Lattanzi (2025) (Fig. 2); this specimen is doubtless part of the original material used by Gussone (1832: 156) to describe *Rosa viscosa* and it is therefore useful for the lectotypification purpose (Gussone, in the protologue, reported “*R. [Rosa] viscosa Jan Cat. pl. 8, ex ejus specimine*” meaning that he referred to a Jan’s specimen). Possible other duplicates of that specimen could be present in Jan’s herbarium (MSNM), unfortunately destroyed during the Second World War (Lastrucci & al. 2021); we tried to locate other duplicates through an online survey, finding some specimens collected by Jan in several herbaria (especially G and FI) but no specimens of *Rosa viscosa*.

Finally, it should be noted that Iamonico & Lattanzi (2025: 234) stated: “Gussone ... validly published the name *Rosa viscosa* providing a short diagnosis, the habitat (‘In apri-

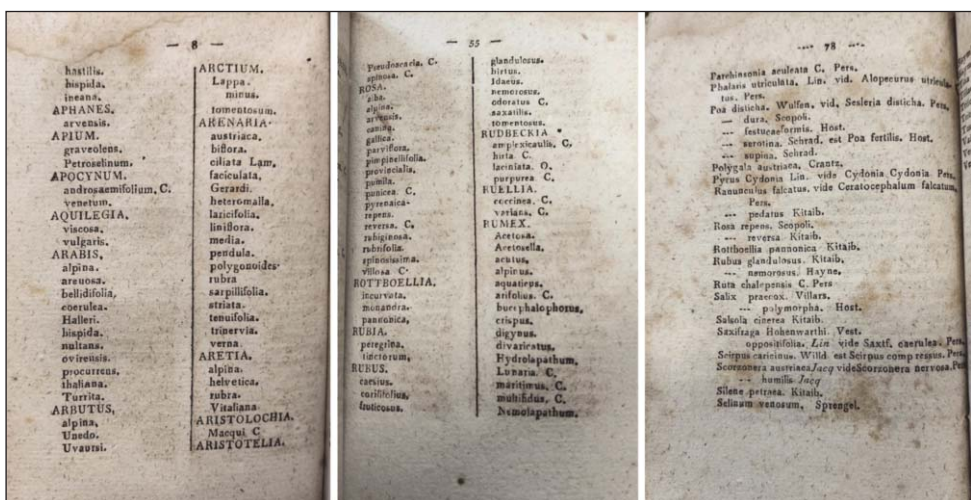


Fig. 1. Pages 8 (left image), 55 (central image), and 78 (right image) of Jan’s (1818) *Catalogus Plantarum Phaenogamarum, ad Usum Botanophilorum Exsiccatarum*.

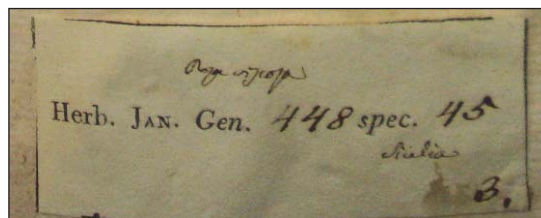


Fig. 2. Detail of the label of the lectotype of *Rosa viscosa* (NAP).

cis montosis'), and the type locality ('Madonie', mountains occurring in northern Sicily); a morphological comparison with *R. rubiginosa* L. was also given". So, they were referring to *Supplementum ad Florae Siculae Prodrum* by Gussone (1832: 156), in which the name was validly published from a nomenclatural standpoint – but the same authors failed to list that work in their references. On the other hand, the name was reported by Iamónico & Lattanzi (2025: 236), in the taxonomic treatment, as "*Rosa viscosa* Jan ex Guss., Cat. Pl. Phaen.: 8. 1818"; so, the authors cited Jan's Catalogus, where, as stated above, no *Rosa viscosa* appears. Indeed, the supposed "name" that Iamónico & Lattanzi purport to lectotypify ("*Rosa viscosa* Jan ex Guss., Cat. Pl. Phaen.: 8. 1818.") does not exist and so, as it stands, the supposed lectotypification would be inapplicable (J. McNeill pers. comm.). It is an uncommon situation and, strangely, a clear indication as to how to handle it does not appear in the Madrid Code (J. McNeill and J. H. Wiersema, pers. comm.). However, we believe that a correction of the species' name with its correct original reference should be proposed; moreover, publishing a revised lectotypification would not be contrary to the Code. Interestingly, Jan's Catalogus is reported as original reference of *Rosa viscosa* by all the major databases of plant names (IPNI 2026; POWO 2026; WFO 2026) and other sources (e.g., Acta Plantarum 2026), while Jan's (1838) *Elenchus plantarum* is never cited.

All things considered, we here present a nomenclatural correction of the typification of *Rosa viscosa*.

Rosa viscosa Jan ex Guss., Fl. Sic. Prodr. suppl. 1: 156. 1832.

Lectotype (designated here):—[ITALY]. Sicilia, s.d., Jan s.n. (NAP; Iamónico & Lattanzi 2025: Fig. 1) (Fig. 2).

– *Rosa viscosa* Jan, Elench. pl.: 8. 1831, *nomen nudum* (Art. 38 of ICN).

Note about the date of publication of Jan's *Elenchus plantarum*: Stafleu & Cowan (1979: 422) indicated 1831 as the year of publication of Jan's *Elenchus plantarum*. However, we noted that on page 8, as a note, it is reported: "Botanophili mecum plantas permutare cupientes requiruntur, ut mox earundem dilectum transmittant. Parmae 31 Martii 1827" where G. Jan stated that "Botanists wishing to exchange plants with me are requested to send their collection soon" adding the date "March 31, 1827". Furthermore, on page 9, is annotated (on top-right corner of the page) "Feuille reçue le 2 Février 1828", highlighting that the sheet was received on February 2, 1828. Finally, on page 20, an

“Addenda” further occurs (three pages in total) and, just below “ANNO 1831” (= year 1831) was reported. Based on these details, it seems that Jan’s *Elenchus plantarum* was published in different dates, as follows:

pages 1-8 published in 1827;

pages 9-19 published in 1828;

pages 20-37 (including “ADDENDA” on pages 20-23; “SUPPLEMENTUM” on pages 24-26; “NOMINA AUCTORUM CITATORUM” on pages. 27-28; “INDEX” on pages 29-37) published in 1831 (see also Selvi & Greuter 2012).

Despite our doubts, we currently refrain from drawing a conclusion on this issue, as it requires further in-depth historical research.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to John McNeill (Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, United Kingdom) and John H. Wiersema (Smithsonian Institution, Washington D.C., U.S.A.) for the valuable discussion concerning the *Madrid Code*. Special thanks to E. Del Guacchio (University of Naples) for sending images of Jan’s *Catalogus*, and to Salvatore Pasta (CNR-IBBR, Palermo) for some bibliographic hints.

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Addresses of the authors:

Duilio Iamónico^{1*} & Angelo Troia^{2,3},

¹Department of Environmental Biology, Sapienza University of Rome, piazzale Aldo Moro 5, 00185-Rome, Italy. E-mail: duilio.iamonico@uniroma1.it

²Department of Biological, Chemical and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Technologies, University of Palermo, via Archirafi 38, 90123-Palermo, Italy. E-mail: angelo.troia@unipa.it

³NBFC, National Biodiversity Future Center, Piazza Marina 61, 90133 Palermo, Italy.

* Corresponding author.

