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***Verbascum* ×*sibyllum*, a new nothospecies from Italy****Abstract**

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*Verbascum* ×*sibyllum*, the hybrid of *V. longifolium* and *V. thapsus*, is described from Monti Sibillini, Central Italy, and illustrated.

On 22 July 1998, I collected in the Monti Sibillini, in the central Italian region Marche, the hybrid of *Verbascum longifolium* Ten. and *V. thapsus* L. Few plants only were traced in abandoned fields, growing not far from both parents. The existence of this hybrid is not mentioned in the literature on this eagerly hybridizing genus (e.g. Béguinot 1902 [thoroughly listing the *Verbascum* hybrids known from Italy], Murbeck 1933, Ferguson 1972, Pignatti 1982). According to Prof. Brilli-Cattarini (pers. comm. March 2001), the sterile hybrid has, however, been collected several times in the central Italian regions Marche, Umbria and Abruzzo, and specimens are preserved in the Pesaro herbarium (PESA) under the hybrid formula.

The distribution of the first parental species, *V. longifolium*, is restricted to central and southern Italy and to the Balkan peninsula (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and former Yugoslavia). Murbeck (1933) gives in his monograph four varieties for this species; in Italy only var. *longifolium* occurs, growing at altitudes between 500 and 1700 m (Pignatti 1982), whereas the other varieties are distributed in the Balkans. The distribution of the second parental species, *V. thapsus*, is much wider, ranging over most of Europe except the extreme north and the southern Balkan peninsula (Ferguson 1972). In Italy the species is common up to altitudes of 1700 m or more. In southern Italy and the northern Balkan peninsula both parents are thus also sympatric and the hybrid may occur there, too.

***Verbascum* ×*sibyllum*** Sutorý, **nothosp. nova** = *Verbascum longifolium* Ten. × *V. thapsus* L. Holotypus: Italy, Marche, Monti Sibillini, abandoned fields in the vicinity of the saddle “Passo di Gualdo”, c. 1400 m, 42°51'27"N, 13°12'17"E, 22.7.1998, Sutorý (BRNM 642 000; isotypus: FI).

Herba biennis, 80-120 cm alta, in lectionis loco statura inter parentes media (maiore quam statura *V. longifolii*, minore quam *V. thapsi*); indumenti color etiam inter parentes medius, non ut

in *V. longifolio* clarus. Folia basalia breviter petiolata (2-4 cm) ut in *V. longifolio*, non sessilia ut in *V. thapso*, caulina inferiora breviter decurrentia, superiora valde decurrentia, omnia decurrentia non aequaliter longa. Pedicelli breves; calyx 4.5 mm longus ut in *V. longifolio*; non c. 10 mm longus ut in *V. thapso*. Corolla extus dense tomentella, perlucide punctata, tubo c. 2 mm longo, inter parentes medio; filamentorum pars infra parce ciliata, *V. thapsi* similis; antherae duae anticae *V. longifolii* similes 2.5 mm decurrentes (in *V. thapso* pars antherae decurrens brevior, c. 2 mm longa). Capsulae non evolutae.

*lc.* – Fig. 1-2.

*Etymologia.* – Ex montibus “Sibillini” in Apennino Umbro-marchiano australi nominatis.

Biennial herb, about 80-120 cm tall, in the collecting locality intermediate between the parental species (*V. longifolium* is smaller, *V. thapsus* more vigorous), indumentum colour also intermediate, not so bright as in *V. longifolium*. Basal leaves with shorter (2-4 cm long) petioles than in *V. longifolium*, not sessile as in *V. thapsus*; upper leaves perfectly decurrent to the next lower one (like in *V. thapsus*), the lower ones only shortly decurrent; decurrent wings of leaves unequally long. Pedicels short like in *V. thapsus*. Calyx 4.5 mm long (similarly to *V. longifolium*, not as in *V. thapsus* 10 mm long). Corolla on the exterior surface with an indumentum of abundant pellucid glands (missing or less pronounced in the parental species of the type locality); corolla tube about 2 mm long, intermediate between both parents (viz. tubular and 0.5-1 mm long in *V. longifolium* whereas infundibular and 4-5 mm long in *V. thapsus*). Anthers of the two anterior stamens decurrent, about 2.5 mm long (as in *V. longifolium*, in *V. thapsus* the decurrent part only c. 2 mm long), filaments with trichomes on the adaxial part, like in *V. thapsus*. Capsulae not developed.

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Fig. 1. *Verbascum x sibyllinum*, holotype, upper part of the plant.



Fig. 2. *Verbascum ×sibyllinum* – holotype, middle part of the plant and two basal leaves.