

# *Phymosia* (Malvaceae) a new genus for the flora of Africa, with nomenclatural notes

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**Ključne besede:** Tujerodne vrste, *Phymosia umbellata*, Tunizija, tipizacija.

## Abstract

As part of ongoing studies of Tunisian Malvaceae, a population of *Phymosia umbellata* was discovered in Monastir city. It represents the first generic record for the national and continental flora. Morphological characters, as well as ecological data are given. A list of all the accepted names in *Phymosia*, their synonyms and types is also provided, with nomenclatural notes about some accepted *Phymosia* species.

## Izvleček

Med dolgoročnimi raziskavami družine Malvaceae v Tuniziji smo v mestu Monastir odkrili populacijo vrste *Phymosia umbellata*. Predstavlja prvi generičen zapis pojavljanja te vrste v nacionalni in kontinentalni flori. Predstavili smo morfološke značilnosti in ekološke podatke. Navajamo seznam vseh veljavnih imen rodu *Phymosia*, njihove sinonime in tipe z nomenklaturnimi pripombami o nekaterih vrstah rodu *Phymosia*.

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## Introduction

The first comprehensive revision of the tropical genus *Phymosia* Desv. ex Ham., after its original publication (Hamilton 1825: 49–50, who proposed the new genus based on calyx and fruit structures, segregating just the Linnaean *Malva abutiloides* L. which is, therefore, the holotype of the genus *Phymosia*), was made about 150 year later by Fryxell (1971), who recognized the following eight species: *P. abutiloides* (L.) Desv. ex Ham., *P. anomala* Fryxell, *P. crenulata* (Brandege) Fryxell, *P. floribunda* (Schltdl.) Fryxell, *P. pauciflora* (Baker f.) Fryxell, *P. rosea* (DC.) Kearney, *P. rzedowskii* Fryxell, and *P. umbellata* (Cav.) Kearney. No infraspecific taxa were considered by Fryxell (1971).

As part of an ongoing study on the family Malvaceae (e.g., Iamónico 2010, 2014a, 2014b, 2016, 2018, Iamónico & Peruzzi 2014, Iamónico & Valdés, 2017, Iamónico & Del Guacchio 2020) and the alien Flora of Tunisia (El Mokni & Iamónico 2018a, 2018b, 2019, Iamónico & El Mokni 2017, 2019a, 2019b), field surveys allowed to find a population of *Phymosia umbellata*. The genus results new both for the Country and the whole Africa (SANBI 2012). A description of the African population, as well as distribution and habitat in Tunisia are provided. Nomenclatural notes on other *Phymosia* names were also given.

## Materials and methods

The research is based on field surveys [collected specimens are deposited at HFLA and Herb. Univ. Monastir: TUNISIA. Monastir: Monastir-South, gardens, 15 m a.s.l., 05 Dec 2018, R. El Mokni & D. Iamónico s.n. (Herb. Univ. Monastir!); *ibidem* (HFLA!); *ibidem*, 08 Mar 2020 (Herb. Univ. Monastir!)], analysis of relevant literature, and examination of specimens preserved at BR, BM, GH, GOET, K, LINN, NY, and P (herbarium codes follow Thiers 2020+).

The articles cited through the text follow the International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (Turland et al. 2018, hereafter ICN).

The names (basionyms) are listed in alphabetical order.

## Results and discussion

### First record for Tunisian and African floras

*Phymosia umbellata* is a species native to Mexico (Fryxell 1971), whereas it was recently found as alien in Europe, in Greece (Rodos Island; Galanos 2015), and Spain (Barcelona Province; Gómez-Bellver et al. 2016).

A single population of *Phymosia umbellata* was found at Monastir city, CE-Tunisia (Figure 1), at elevation 15–20 m. It comprises 7 individuals which occupy an area of about 20 m<sup>2</sup>. We observed the flowering time from December to January, whereas the fruiting time is February-March. This population represents the first record of the species for the Flora of Africa. At the current state of knowledge, we consider *Phymosia umbellata* as a casual alien species for Tunisia and Africa. However, future monitoring will be carried out to check the eventual naturalization of the species.

## Nomenclature

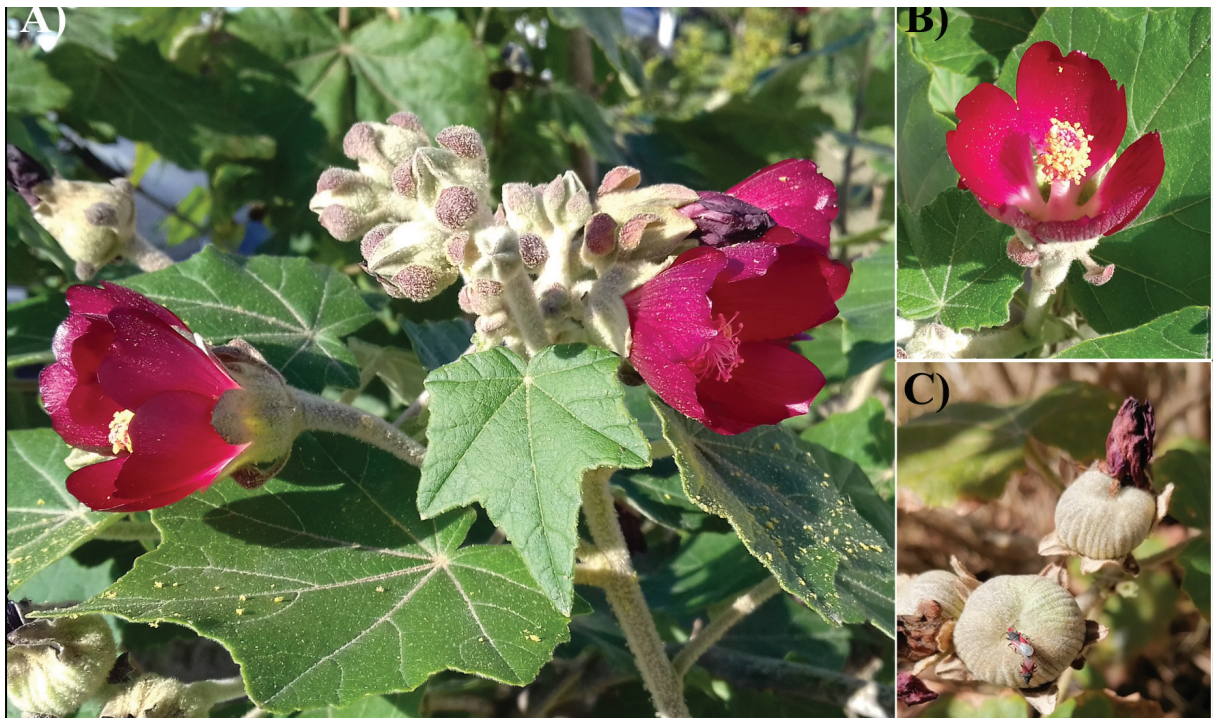
### Note on the type of *Malva rosea* (≡ *Phymosia rosea*)

Candolle (1824: 435) validly described *Malva rosea* giving a short diagnosis, the provenance (“montium Novae-Hispaniae”), and citing “fl. mex. ic. ined.”. These latter abbreviated words refer to *Icones Florae Mexicanae*, a series of paintings (included in the Torner’s collection) which would accompany the projected Mexican flora related to the Sessé and Mociño’s expedition aimed to explore the flora of Caribbean, Mexico and northern Central America (with forays also in Baja and Alta California and as far north as Nootka and Alaska) (see Hunt Institute For Botanical Documentation 2020).

Fryxell (1971: 168) reported “Type: Calque des Dessins de la Flora du Mexique de Moçiño et Sessé . . . , No. 58 (F, G, US)”. This cited work was published by Candolle (1874) and includes a list of the taxa of *Icones Florae Mexicanae* which served as type of the taxa listed in his *Prodromus*, as reported in both the Title (“*Calque des Dessins de la Flora du Mexique de Moçiño et Sessé qui ont servi de type espèces dans le systema ou le prodromus*”) and the Introduction (Candolle 1874: 1) (see also Del Guacchio et al. 2016: 149). The “No. 58” cited by Fryxell (l.c.) refers to the number of *planche* reported by Candolle (1874: 6; see <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/175033#page/95/mode/1up>) for *Malva rosea*. We verified that 58 is also the number of the painting of *Icones Florae Mexicanae* of *Malva rosea*.

Note, finally, that Candolle (1824) always reported “v. s.” (*vidi siccam*) when he examined herbarium specimens [see for example *Malvaviscus pilosus* (DC.) Swartz; Candolle 1824: 445], whereas this information was not given for *Malva rosea*.

All things considered, as in other cases [for example for *Malvaviscus penduliflorus* (Iamónico & El Mokni in prep.)], Candolle (1824: 435), by reporting “fl. mex. ic. ined.”, published its diagnosis of *Malva rosea* based on



**Figure 1:** *Phymosia umbellata* in Tunisia: A) inflorescence with leaves, B) details of flower, C) schizocarps (photos by R. El Mokni).  
**Slika 1:** *Phymosia umbellata* v Tuniziji: A) socvetje z listi, B) podrobnosti cvetov, C) pokovec (fotografije R. El Mokni).

the illustration of *Icones Florae Mexicanae*. The quotation by Fryxell (1971: 168) of the herbaria F, K, and US likely indicates that he seen copies (we traced an illustration of *Malva rosea* at F (same of that included in *Icones Florae Mexicanae*, but non colored; see <https://fm-digital-assets.fieldmuseum.org/369/620/30485.jpg>). Anyway, the image no. 58 of *Icones Florae Mexicanae* can be considered as the holotype of the name *Malva rosea* according to the Art. 9.1 of ICN, and the considerations by McNeill (2014).

### Notes on the typification of *Sphaeralcea crenulata* ( $\equiv$ *Phymosia crenulata*)

Fryxell (1971: 161) stated for *Sphaeralcea crenulata* “Type: MEXICO: Puebla: Barranca Cerro de Paxtle, *Purpus* 2601 (UC)”. The typification is correct and is to be considered as lectotypification according to the Art. 7.11 of ICN. Moreover, although Fryxell (1971: 161) did not report any barcode, there is only one specimen at UC (UC-124978) which label data correspond to those indicated by the author.

Note that Fryxell (1971) also listed further two identical Purpus’ specimens at GH, and MO (barcode

MO-531995), but we have not been able to trace the images of these exsiccata.

### Typification of *Sphaeralcea galeottii* (= *Phymosia umbellata*)

*Sphaeralcea galeottii* was validly described by Turczaninow (1858) through a diagnosis, the provenance (“Oxaca Mexici alt. 3000 ped.”), and the collector (“Galeotti n. 4102”).

Fryxell (1971: 163), by reporting “Type: Veracruz, Tlachichuca, al pié del Volcán, *s.d.*, *Galeotti* 4102 (BR-3 sheets)”, did not indicate which BR specimen was to be considered as type. According to the Arts. 7.11 and 9.17 of ICN, a second-step typification is necessary.

We traced the three BR specimens cited by Fryxell (1971: 163), i.e. BR-0000005215393, BR-0000005178476, and BR-0000005179817. We here designate the specimen BR-0000005215393 as the lectotype of the name *Sphaeralcea galeottii* (second-step typification) since an image is online available just for it<sup>1</sup>. The other two BR specimens are isolectotypes. A further isolectotype was found at K (K-000328823).

<sup>1</sup> Since the COVID-19 situation, we had not the possibility to obtain images of the other two specimens (BR-0000005178476, and BR-0000005179817).

## Typification of *Sphaeroma floribunda* (≡ *Phymosia floribunda*)

*Sphaeroma floribunda* was validly published by Schlechtendal (1827: 53) who provided a short diagnosis, a detailed description, the provenance (“Ad Oajaca”), and the collector (“Mühlenpfordt”). Fryxell (1971: 160) given a wide discussion about the Mühlenpfordt’s collection, reaching to the conclusion that original material no longer exists since Mühlenpfordt’s specimens were included into the Halle’s herbarium at B, destroyed during the II World War. As a consequence, Fryxell (1971: 157) proposed a neotype “Oaxaca: Yavesía, *Galeotti 4088* (BR)”. We traced three pertinent specimens at BR, collected by H. G. Galeotti and numbered as “4088”: BR-000000517838, BR-0000005188031, BR-000000517897. According to the Art. 9.17 of ICN a second-step typification is necessary and we here select the specimen BR-000000517897 as the other two BR specimens are isoneotypes. We found a further isoneotype at K (K-000328820).

## Typification of *Sphaeroma floribunda* var. *pauciflora* (≡ *Phymosia pauciflora*)

Baker (1893: 365) proposed the name *Sphaeroma floribunda* var. *pauciflora* on the basis of a Mexican collection by T. Coulter, numbered as “No. 800”. Fryxell (1971: 163) reported: “Type: MEXICO: Hidalgo: Zimapan, *Coulter 800*” without indication of the herbarium. In the successive page of his work, Fryxell (1971: 164) listed three Coulter’s specimens at GH, F, and K, but he did not indicate which specimen was the type.

According to the Arts. 7.11, 9.17, and 9.22 of ICN the Fryxell’s typification proposal can be considered as valid and a second-step typification is here provided.

We traced three specimens, one at GH (GH-00058142), and two at K (K000328821 and K-000328822), which are part of the original material used by Baker (1893: 365) to describe *Phymosia floribunda* var. *pauciflora*. We here designate the specimen K-000328822 the lectotype of the name *Sphaeroma floribunda* var. *pauciflora* (second-step typification), since it bears a part of one plant displaying more characters. The other two specimens (GH-00058142 and K-000328821) are isolectotypes.

Note that Fryxell (1971: 164) also listed a further Coulter’s specimen at F, but we have not been able to trace this exsiccatum.

<sup>2</sup> Philipp August Friedrich Mühlenpfordt (1803–1891) was a German botanist, Professor of Zoology and Botany at the Polytechnical School of Hannover (Mühlenpfordt 1847).

## Taxonomic treatment

A list of all the currently accepted *Phymosia* species, with homotypic synonyms and correct types is reported.

***Phymosia abutiloides*** (L.) Desv. ex Ham., Prodr. Pl. Ind. Occid.: 49. 1825 ≡ *Malva abutiloides* L., Sp. Pl. Ed. 2 2: 971. 1763 ≡ *Sphaeralcea abutiloides* (L.) G. Don, Gen. Syst. 1: 465. 1831 – Lectotype (designated Fryxell, 1971: 157): [Icon] t. 1. f. 1 in Dillenius (1732). Image of the lectotype available at <https://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es/viewer/10700/?offset=#page=11&viewer=picture&o=bookmark&n=0&q=>

**Chorology:** Bahamas (at sea level) and Haiti (up to 1500 m a.s.l.) (Fryxell 1971: 157).

***Phymosia anomala*** Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 167. 1971 – Holotype: Mexico, Hidalgo, Real del Monte, Aug 1946, *Martínez 15054* (MO-1313132!). Image of the holotype available at <http://legacy.tropicos.org/Image/34333>

**Chorology:** Endemic to Hidalgo and Michoacán, Mexico (Fryxell 1971: 168).

***Phymosia crenulata*** (Brandege) Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 161. 1971 ≡ *Sphaeralcea crenulata* Brandege, Univ. Calif. Publ. Bot. 3(8): 384–385. 1909 – Lectotype (designated by Fryxell 1971: 157, first-step; second-step, proposed here according to the Art. 9.17 of ICN): Mexico, Puebla, Barranca Cerro de Paxtle, Jul 1907, *Purpus 1601* (UC-124978!). Image of the lectotype available at [http://legacy.tropicos.org/Specimen/2159962](https://plants.jstor.org/stable/10.5555/al.ap.specimen.uc124978?searchUri=filter%3Dname%26so%3Dps_group_by_genus_species%2Basc%26Query%3DSphaeralcea%2Bcrenulata; Isolectotypes: GH (not traced, <i>fide</i> Fryxell 1971: 163), and MO-531995 (image not traced, <i>fide</i> Fryxell 1971: 163, but see the form at <a href=)).

**Chorology:** Puebla, Mexico (Fryxell 1971: 163).

***Phymosia floribunda*** (Schltdl.) Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 157. 1971 ≡ *Sphaeroma floribunda* Schltdl., Linnaea 11: 353. 1827 ≡ *Malva floribunda* (Schltdl.) Steud., Nomencl. Bot. (ed. 2): 2: 94. 1841 ≡ *Sphaeralcea floribunda* (Schltdl.) Walp., Repert. Bot. Syst. 2: 789. 1843 – Neotype (designated by Fryxell 1971: 157, first-step; second-step, proposed here according to the Art. 9.17 of ICN): Mexico, Oaxaca, Yavesía, Nov 1840, *Galeotti 4088* (BR-000000517897!) (Figure 1). Isonetypes: BR-000000517838!, BR-

0000005188031!, and K-000328820! (designated here, image available at <http://apps.kew.org/herbcat/getImage.do?imageBarcode=K000328820>).

**Chorology:** North-central Oaxaca, Mexico (Fryxell 1971: 161).

*Phymosia pauciflora* (Backer) Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 163. 1971 ≡ *Sphaeralcea floribunda* var. *pauciflora* Baker, J. Bot. 31: 365. 1893 – Lectotype (designated by Fryxell 1971: 163, first-step; second-step, proposed here according to the Art. 9.17 of ICN): Mexico, Hidalgo, *s.d.*, Coulter 800 (K-000328822!). Image of the lectotype available at <http://apps.kew.org/herbcat/getImage.do?imageBarcode=K000328822>; Isolectotypes: GH-00058142! (image available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/0014D61A75A445F/type/full/58142.jpg>), K-000328821 (image available at <http://apps.kew.org/herbcat/getImage.do?imageBarcode=K000328821>), and F (not traced, *vide* Fryxell 1971: 163).

**Chorology:** Mexico (Fryxell 1971: 163).

*Phymosia rosea* (DC.) Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 168. 1971 – Holotype: [icon] *Malva rosea* no. 58 in *Icones Florae Mexicanae* (unpublished). Image of the holotype available at <https://huntbot.org/torner/sites/default/files/illustration/0745.JPG>

**Chorology:** Central America, from Guatemala to South Mexico (Fryxell 1971: 172).

*Phymosia rzedowski* Fryxell, Madroño 21(3): 172–173. 1971 – Holotype: Mexico, 2 km a SE de San Pablo Ixayoc, munic. de Texcoco, fondo de cañada con vegetación de bosque de *Alnus* con *Abies*, *Fraxinus*, y *Quercus*, 2600 m a.s.l., 03 Aug 1967, *Rzedowski 24187* (ENCB-003465!). Image of the holotype available at <http://collections.umontpellier.fr/>

**Chorology:** Endemic to Texcoco, Mexico; occurring only in its *locus classicus* (Fryxell 1971: 173).

*Phymosia umbellata* (Cav.) Kearney, Leaf. W. Bot. 5(12): 190. 1949 ≡ *Malva umbellata* Cav., Icon. 1: 64, t. 95. 1791 ≡ *Sphaeralcea umbellata* (Cav.) G. Don, Gen. Hist. 1: 465. 1831 ≡ *Sphaeroma umbellatum* (Cav.) Schtdl., Linnaea 11: 352. 1837 – Lectotype (designated by Fuertes & Fryxell 1993: 661–662): Spain, *Ex. H. Matr.* (Horti [Regi Botanici] Matritensis), cultivated at the Botanic Garden of Madrid, 1800, *s.c. s.n.* (MA-CAV-475960!). Image of the lectotype available at [http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva\\_umbellata\\_475960](http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva_umbellata_475960); Isolectotypes: MA-CAV-475959! (<http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/>

[zoom3.php?filename=Malva\\_umbellata\\_475959](http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva_umbellata_475959)), MA-CAV-475961! ([http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva\\_umbellata\\_475961](http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva_umbellata_475961)), MA-CAV-475962! ([http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva\\_umbellata\\_475962](http://herbario.rjb.csic.es/zoom3.php?filename=Malva_umbellata_475962)).

= *Sphaeralcea galeottii* Turcz., Bull. Soc. Nat. Mosc. 31: 186. 1858 – Lectotype (designated by Fryxell 1971: 165, first-step; second-step typification, here proposed): Mexico, Veracruz, Tlachichuca, al pié del Volcán, *s.d.*, *Galeotti 4102* (BR-0000005215393!). Image of the lectotype available at <http://www.br.fgov.br/research/COLLECTIONS/HERBARIUM/detail.php?ID=444674>; Isolectotypes: BR-0000005178476, BR-0000005179817, and K-000328823 (image available at <http://apps.kew.org/herbcat/getImage.do?imageBarcode=K000328823>).

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