

NOTES ON THE FLORA OF MALTA - 3:

*CREPIS BURSIFOLIA* LINNAEUS

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The occurrence of *Crepis bursifolia* L. in the Maltese Islands is recorded here for the first time.

On the 20th June 1983, the writer found a single specimen of an unfamiliar chicoroid plant growing vigorously on an asphalted pavement, close to a main thoroughfare, in a sea-side residential area (Tower Road, Sliema, Malta). It was accompanied by *Taraxacum minimum* (Briganti ex Guss.)N. Terrac., *Setaria verticillata* (L.) Beauv., *Hyoscyamus albus* L., *Reichardia picroides* (L.) Roth., *Parietaria officinalis* L., and *Conyza bonariensis* (L.)Cronq. It was subsequently identified as *Crepis bursifolia* L. by Mr. G. Ll. Lucas of the Kew Herbarium (Ref. H633/83) who also stated that there is no other material of this species from Malta at Kew. Specimens have been deposited at the Kew Herbarium and at the private herbarium of Mr. E. Lanfranco in Malta.

This species is native in Central and Southern Italy and Sicily ; it also occurs as an alien in Spain, France and possibly Greece (SELL, 1976). It should be considered as an alien in the Maltese Islands. However, one cannot absolutely rule out the possibility that its rare occurrence in Malta could have been previously overlooked, owing to the presence of several other chicoroids with similar-looking flower-heads which are common and widespread in Malta, such as: *Hypochaeris achyrophorus* L., *Leontodon tuberosus* L., *Reichardia picroides* (L.)Roth., and especially *Taraxacum minimum* (Briganti ex Guss.)N. Terrac., *Hyoseris radiata* L. and some forms of *Hyoseris scabra* L., the leaves of which also resemble closely those of this species.

I am indebted to Mr. G. Ll. Lucas for identifying this species and to Mr. E. Lanfranco for looking up its distribution.

REFERENCES

- SELL, P.D. (1976). *Crepis* in TUTIN *et al.* (ed.) - *Flora Europaea*, 4:357, Cambridge University Press.

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