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**A NEW SPECIES OF *DELPHINIUM* L. (*RANUNCULACEAE*)
FROM MADEIRA**

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With 2 figures

ABSTRACT. A new species, *Delphinium maderense* C. Blanché (*Ranunculaceae*) is described from Sítio da Alegria (Madeira Island).

Key words. Angiosperms, *Delphinium*, *Ranunculaceae*, Madeira.

RESUMO. UMA NOVA ESPÉCIE DE *DELPHINIUM* L. (*RANUNCULACEAE*) DA MADEIRA. Descreve-se uma nova espécie, *Delphinium maderense* C. Blanché (*Ranunculaceae*) do Sítio da Alegria (Madeira).

Delphinium maderense C. Blanché, *spec. nova*

Planta annua, 20-35 cm alta, pilis arcuatis vestita. Folia basalia rosulata, sub anthesi emarcida; supera autem (scilicet, supra medium caulem insita) linearia, 25-50 x 1-3 mm longa lataque. Pedicelli florum inferiorum longi (10-15 mm), bracteolis brevibus, linearibus, fere in summo pedicello insitis. Flores (22) 24-26 mm longi, sepalis lateralibus 7.5-9 mm atque inferioribus 6-7 mm longis, petalis autem lateralibus suborbicularibus, basi cordatis. Calcar horizontale vel ascendens, 16-18 mm longum. Carpella 5, dense pilis arcuatis cooperta. Folliculi 5, rarius 3-4, pubescentes quidem, (9) 10-11 mm longi. Semina subhemisphaerica, c. 1 mm longa, lamellis annulata.

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HOLOTYPE: *Delphinium peregrinum* L./Allegria/Aug. 1893/ ex herb MONIZ. BM.

Herbaceous, branched, arcuate-pubescent annual, 20-35 cm high. Basal leaves usually withered at anthesis; cauline leaves (upper 3/4 of stem), 25-50 x 1-3 mm, entire, linear, narrow. Stem arcuate pubescent. Inflorescence open, 5-10 (15)- branched; racemes with (3) 5-8 (15) flowers. Pedicels (of fruiting or mature flowers) 10-15 mm long. Bracteoles short, linear, attached towards the top (upper 1/4) of the pedicel. Flowers (22) 24-26 mm long. Lateral sepals 7.5-9 mm long; lower sepals 6-7 mm long. Spur horizontal or ascending, 16-18 mm long. Lateral petals non-ciliate, suborbicular or ovate-orbicular, cordate at base and abruptly contracted into a claw. Stamens flattened at base, papillose, sparsely pubescent. Carpels 5, densely arcuate-pubescent. Follicles 5 (rarely 3-4), divergent, pubescent, linear-oblong, (9) 10-11 mm high. Seed *ca.* 1mm, subhemispherical, with 8-9 lamellar rings.

Additional material seen in herb. BM belonging to *D. maderense* (paratypes): cornfields below site named Allegria, July 23 1844 (Herb. R T. LOWE)!; cornfields just below Allegria, 26 August 1837 (Herb. R. T. LOWE)!; Allegria, Aug. 1837 (MS: Dr. LIPPOLD)!; Alegria, alt. 1800 ft, roadside bank, 20.5.1956, C. H. C. PICKERING 4!.

This plant seems to have been collected exclusively at the Allegria Valley, in the Island of Madeira. It is a narrow valley, mostly devoted to cornfields, ranging from sea level near Funchal to the Central Mountain ridge (ca. 1800 m.). *Delphinium maderense* is thus an endemic species restricted to that small area. It belongs to sect. *Delphinium*, series *Halterata* B. Pawl. (see BLANCHÉ, 1990) allied to some W. Mediterranean species with similar lateral petal shape.

D. maderense differs from *D. cossonianum* Batt., the only other annual *Delphinium* with 5 carpels, both in morphological and biogeographical characters. *D. cossonianum* is a well defined endemic species of Morocco, with long (up to 40 cm), multi-flowered (up to 60 flowers, mean 20-30) inflorescences and shorter spurs (1-1.4 x sepal length), whereas *D. maderense* has fewer flowered inflorescences and longer spurs (1.7-3 x sepal length), in addition to the longer, narrower, entire cauline leaves.

This new species was considered under *D. peregrinum* L. by LOWE (1857) although he pointed out (l.c.: 8-9) the difficulties in applying such a name to his plant. In the General Herbarium of the Natural History Museum (London) there is a sheet ("*Delphinium gracile* ? DC./Aug. 1837/Allegria" MS. LIPPOLD) with a label, handwritten probably by a curator, (J. R. PRESS, pers. comm.) clearly suggesting the differences between *D. maderense* and *D. gracile* DC. ("*Delphinium a D. gracile differt ovariiis 4-5 nec 3 tantum. Madeira*"). In further floristic catalogues this plant was treated as *D. peregrinum* subsp. *verdunense* (Balbis) P. COUT. MENEZES, 1914: 9) or simply omitted (HANSEN & SUNDING, 1985. 76).

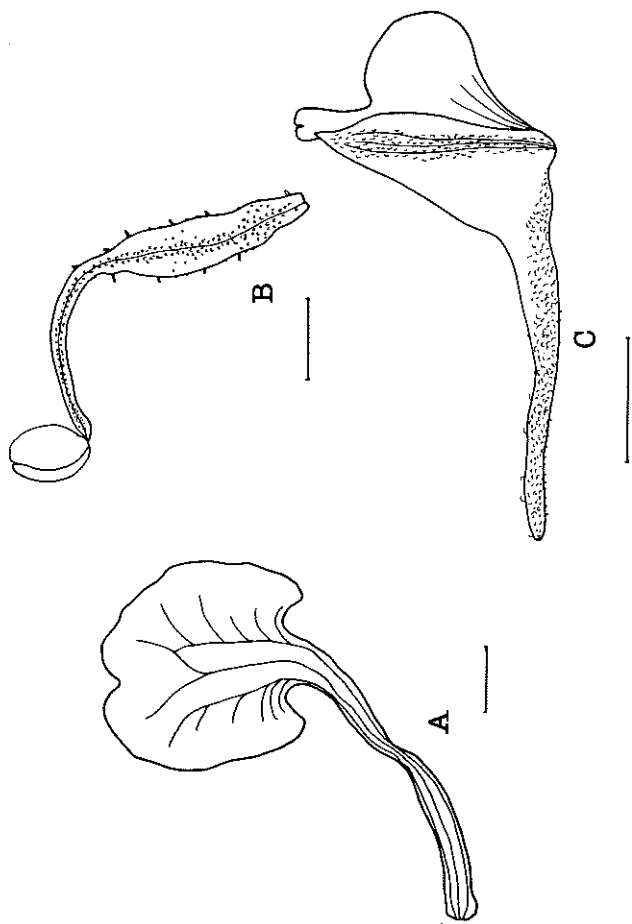


Fig. 1 -- *Delphinium maderense* C. BLANCHÉ: A) lateral petal (scale bar: 1 mm); B) stamen (scale bar 1mm); C) dissected flower showing spur and upper petal (scale bar: 5 mm).



Fig. 2 -- Holotype of *Delphinium maderense* C. Blanché (BM).

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