

Malva subovata subsp. *bicolor*, comb. & stat. nov. (Malvaceae)

Duilio Iamónico

Via dei Colli Albani 170, IT-00179 Rome, Italy (e-mail: duilio76@yahoo.it)

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The name *Malva subovata* (DC.) Molero & J.M. Monts. subsp. *bicolor* (Rouy) Iamónico, comb. & stat. nov. (Malvaceae) is proposed according to current generic concepts in the tribe Malveae.

Key words: *Lavatera*, new combination, nomenclature

Recent morphological and molecular studies (e.g. Judd & Manchester 1997, Bayer *et al.* 1999) showed that some of the formerly recognized families of the order Malvales are not monophyletic; consequently, nine subfamilies of the family Malvaceae were recognized (Bayer *et al.* 1999, Bayer & Kubitzki 2003).

The subfamily Malvoideae comprises four tribes: Gossypieae, Hibisceae, Kydieae and Malveae (Bayer & Kubitzki 2003). The tribe Malveae includes about 70 genera (about 1000 species) that encompass the higher morphological and taxonomical diversity in Malvoideae (Tate *et al.* 2005). Several interpretations of the tribe Malveae have been proposed since the 19th century (Tate *et al.* 2005). Recent studies showed the phylogenetic relationships within and among the genera in the Malveae, and some also revealed that some genera are not monophyletic, as currently circumscribed (Ray 1995, Fuertes Aguilar *et al.* 2003, Tate & Simpson 2003).

Regarding the genera *Malva* and *Lavatera*, Bayer and Kubitzki (2003), in their synthesis of the Malvaceae, reported that the definition of

Lavatera is limited to the species included in the “Lavateroid clade” as defined by Ray (1995). As a result of the studies of Ray (1995), several species of *Lavatera* were transferred to *Malva* (Ray 1998, Banfi *et al.* 2005, Molero & Montserrat 2005, 2006).

In their taxonomical notes, Molero and Montserrat (2005, 2006) showed that the name *Malva africana* (Cav.) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso, chosen by Banfi *et al.* (2005) for *Lavatera maritima* Gouan, is illegitimate under Art. 6.4 and 53.3 of the ICBN (the basionym *Lavatera africana* Cav. is a later homonym of the heterotypic name *L. africana* Mill.). Molero and Montserrat (2005) noted that *Lavatera subovata* DC. is the oldest available name and proposed a new combination *Malva subovata* (DC.) Molero & J.M. Monts. In a more recent study they also proposed the combination *Malva subovata* (DC.) Molero & J.M. Monts. subsp. *rupestris* (Pomel) Molero & J.M. Monts (Molero & Montserrat 2006).

The name *Malva africana* (Cav.) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso subsp. *bicolor* (Rouy) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso (Banfi *et al.* 2005) is thus illegitimate and a new combination is hereby proposed.

Malva subovata (DC.) Molero & J.M. Monts. subsp. ***bicolor*** (Rouy) Iamónico
comb. & stat. nov.

BASEONYM: *Lavatera bicolor* Rouy, J. Bot. (Morot) 11: 86.1897. — TYPE: France. Alpes-Maritimes, Pont-Saint-Louis près Menton, V.1879 A. *De Coincy* (holotype LY!).

Lavatera maritima Gouan subsp. *bicolor* Rouy, Fl. France 4: 46. 1897.

Malva africana (Cav.) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso subsp. *bicolor* (Rouy) Soldano, Banfi & Galasso, *nom. illeg.*, Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. Mus. Civico Storia Nat. Milano 146: 230. 2005.

Rouy (1897b) reported *L. maritima* Gouan subsp. *bicolor* in the “Flore de France”, but he referred to the name *Lavatera bicolor* that was previously published in Rouy (1987a). So, *Lavatera bicolor* Rouy is the oldest name applicable to the material that I include in my circumscription of *Malva subovata* subsp. *bicolor*.

One exsiccatum kept in LY (Rouy’s collection) can be considered the holotype of the taxon. The label information coincides with the protologue by Rouy (1897a). A comparison of handwriting on the label (Burdet 1974) confirms that one handwriting is Rouy’s, while the other is De Concy’s.

DESCRIPTION: Shrub. Stems 0.6–1.2 m, much branched. Leaves petiolate (petiole 2.5–3 cm), 2–3.5 × 3–5 cm, pubescent-grey abaxially. Lower flowers solitary (upper flowers in groups of 2–3) in axils of leaves; peduncles 2–3 cm; sepals acute or acuminate, 1.5 cm long; petals emarginate, 2–2.5 cm long, pink with violet radial veins. Mericarps 9–13; carpophore truncate-flattened.

Malva subovata subsp. *bicolor* differs from *M. subovata* subsp. *subovata* in the following characters: petiole longer (2.5–3 cm); upper flowers in groups of 2–3; lobes of the calyx more acuminate; carpophore truncate-flattened.

Malva subovata subsp. *bicolor* grows on calcareous cliffs from the sea level to 50 m a.s.l. The flowering period is from April to May. This plant is known in France from Pont-Saint-Louis near Menton (Rouy 1897b). Fiori (1923, 1925) also reported it for the western part of the Liguria region (Italy) in San Remo, while Pignatti (1982) did not report any subspecies for *Lavatera maritima*, but the locality of Ventimiglia was indicated and it probably refers to the subsp. *bicolor*.

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