KAZIMIERZ BROWICZ

Distribution and variability of *Clematis cirrhosa* L. and *Myrtus communis* L. in the eastern Mediterranean

Among the many species of shrubs the distribution of which is associated with the Mediterranean maquis I have chosen two and prepared a point map of distribution. For the purpose I have used primarily material originating from many European and Asiatic herbaria (particularily: ANK., ATH., E., EGE., ISTO., JE., KOR., TARI., W.). Besides I have also used data from literature primarily from numerous "Floras" that quote individual stands.

1. *CLEMATIS CIRRHOSA* L.

Of the five species from the genus *Clematis* occurring in the region of eastern Mediterranean *C. cirrhosa* is the only one in which the time of flowering coincides with the winter and early spring, from November to April depending on the stand. The remaining four species usually flower in the sumer, in June and July and sometimes till September. This woody climber, thin shoots of which attain 3(5) m is frequently considered to be an evergreen. It appears, however, that similarily as in the case of flowering phenology the timing of leaf development is also different. It looses its leaves during the summer drought and they reappear after the first autumn rains attaining full development in the winter. In a dry form, due to petioles that entwine the stems, they can stay on the shrub even longer than a year, but these are not green leaves but dead ones.

C. cirrhosa is widely distributed throughout the Mediterranean region. In southern Europe it occurs in Portugal and Spain, on the Balearic Isles, in France, on Corsica, Sardinia and Sicilly, in southern Italy (Calabria nad Puglia) and also in Greece, Crete, the Aegean islands and even in European Turkey from where it was reported only recently in the vicinity of Istanbul (Büyükdere, 1975, Gassner — ANK.). The occurrence in Greece was not mentioned in the "Flora Europaea" (Tutin, 1964). In Asia *C. cirrhosa* grows in western and southern Anatolia,

northwestern Syria, the Lebanon, northwestern Jordan and in Israel where the most southerly stands are to be found in the Judean Mts. (Fig. 1). Similarily as in Europe stand of *C. cirrhosa* are distributed in Asia, primarily along the coast and less frequently inland as in the case in Jordan, or in northwestern Anatolia in the Eskişehir province (Göce Koyu, 350 m, 26. 3. 1971, Ekim 764 — E.).

In North Africa *C. cirrhosa* occurs most frequently in Marocco and here along the coast of the Atlantic it reaches as far south as Agadir (Jahandiez, Maire, 1932). Eastwards the stands are increasing less common. They are known to exist in Algeria, Tunisia and in Lybia in the Cirenaica. The most easterly stand is known from the vicinity of Koubba, west of Derna (Durand, Barratte, 1910). Throughout its range of distribution *C. cirrhosa* is associated with maquis and grows from the sea shore to an elevation of 700 - 800 m. The most elevated stands have been reported from 1200 m in Cyprus (Chapman, 1949) and Sicilly (Fiori, 1923 - 1929).

C. cirrhosa is a polymorphic species and its variability concerns primarily the size of flowers and leaf form. Within the species several taxa were recognized which are given various systematic rank. Two of these have been even treated as independent species: *C. balearica* Rich. et Juss. and *C. semitriloba* Lag. These were described in detail by Kuntze in his monograph of the genus *Clematis* in 1885 (Verh. Bot. Ver. Brandenburg, 26) who gave them the rank of varieties. This was criticized by Briquet (1910) and Maire (1964). The latter author considers them to by only forms and he has shown that 7 such forms exist in North Africa. He divided them into two groups: 1) forms in which all leaves on brachyblasts art simple and 2) forms with at least partially trilobe, trisected or tripartite leaves on brachyblasts. Into the latter group Maire has included two forms: f. *semitriloba* (Lag.) Ball, and f. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Briquet and these are most commonly mentioned in the literature.

The difference between these two forms concerns the method of leaf incision. The f. *semitriloba* has trilobe or trisected leaves and the incisions never attain the base of the leaf blade and its size does not differ from that of the type form. In f. *balearica* the leaves are completely tripartite to the base of the leaf blade into three narrow segments each of which is secondarily incised and the leaf blade is distinctly smaller from that in the type form. It appears that *f. semitriloba* is transitional in nature between the type form and f. *balearica* and probably it has not been correctly identified by all botanists. On the other hand *f. balearica* is so characteristic and so different from the type form and besides has a very specific range of distribution (about which see below) so that I have decided to treat it here similarily as Willkomm (Willkomm, Lange, 1880) has done as a variety — var. *balearica* (Rich.

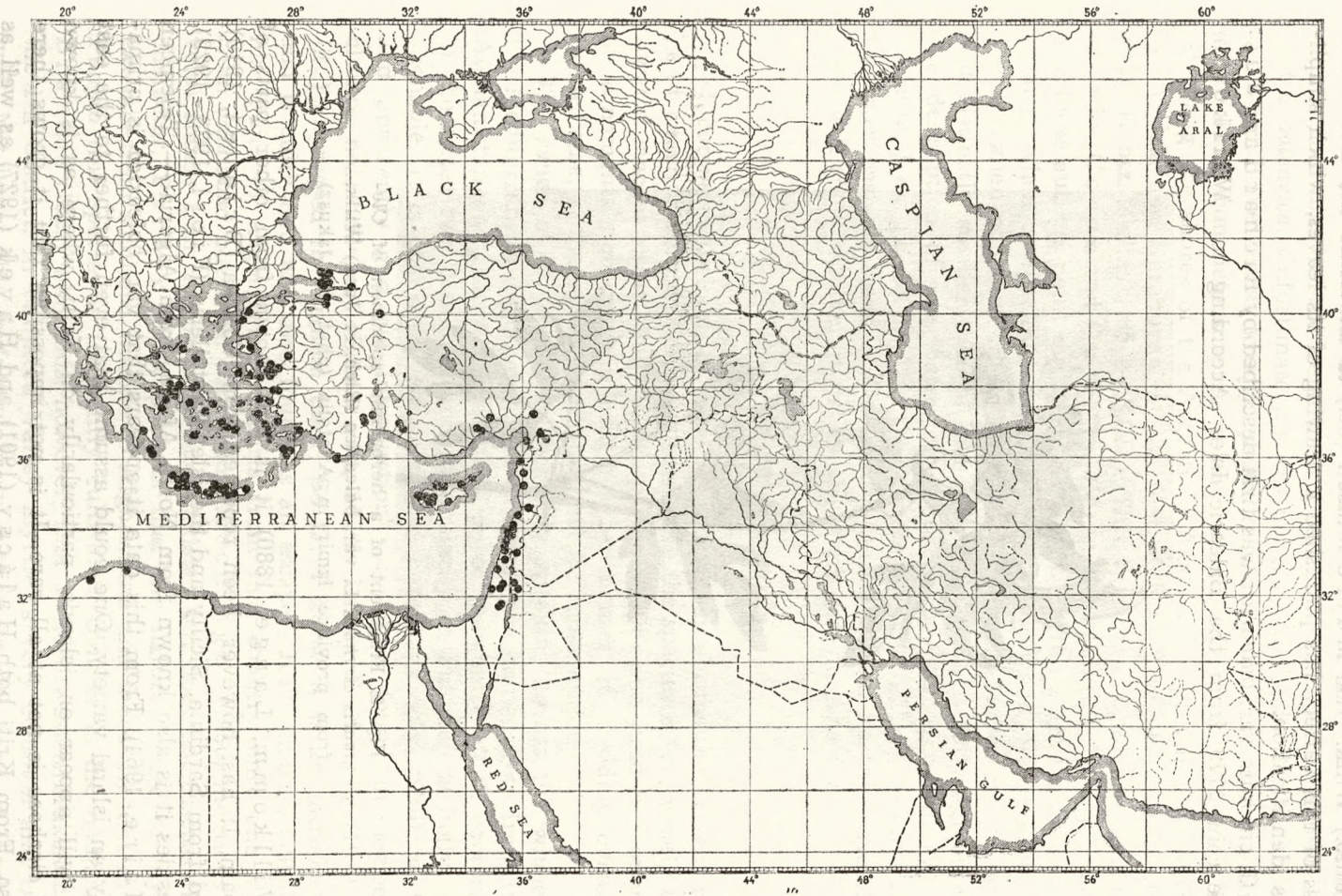

Fig. 1. Distribution of *Clematis cirrhosa* L. in the Eastern Mediterranean (stand of var. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Willk. is marked as a triangle)

et Juss.) Willk. Also Maire himself (l.c.) to underline the distinctiveness of this variety has published a drawing of its leaves, which simplifies identification.

C. cirrhosa var. *balearica* was first described by Richard and Jussieu in 1779 from the Balearic Isles. According to Willkomm

Fig. 2. Fragment of a herbarium specimen of *Clematis cirrhosa* L. var. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Willk. from province Izmir in Anatolia (phot. K. Jakusz)

(Willkomm, Lange, 1880) it is not known from other parts of Spain. It has, however, been reported from Corsica (Briquet, 1910), and from Sardinia, Sicilly and the islet Pantelleria (Fiori, 1923 - 1929). Besides it is also known from North Africa, from Algeria — Telemcen (Maire, 1964). From this data it appears that var. *balearica* is primarily an island variety. One could assume that even further to the east in will appear on islands, particularily on Kriti, where as is known *C. cirrhosa* is not at all rare. It is not impossible that it grows there also. From Kriti both Halácsy (1901) and Hayek (1927) as well as Rechinger (1943) mention f. *semitriloba*, which according to these

authors is to have leaves „*tripartitis vel trisectis*". This description agrees according to the definition of Maire with both f. *semitriloba* and f. *balearica*. Unfortunately I was not able to clarify this point since I did not have access to appropriate herbarium collections from Kriti.

It was a complete surprise to me when I found var. *balearica* (Fig. 2), along the shores of the Aegean in Anatolia, in province Izmir (between Urla and Karaburun, at the feet of Koca Dag (9. 11. 1977, Browicz, Hantz, Zieliński 65 — KOR.). This variety was not mentioned by Davis, Coode and Cullen (1965) in the "Flora of Turkey", however these authors point out that leaves of *C. cirrhosa* are variable particularily when comparing leaves from long shoots and brachyblasts. On the specimen collected in 1977 absolutely all the leaves are tripartite and distinctly smaller than on the type form, thus it fully agrees with the description of var. *balearica* published by Willkomm (Willkomm, Lange, 1880). Also the flowers are small. Thus we have here the most easterly stand of *C. cirrhosa* var. *balearica*. Further investigations will show whether it grows anywhere else in Anatolia.

2. *MYRTUS COMMUNIS* L.

M. communis belongs to these Mediterranean shrubs the present range of which is very difficult to draw since the species is "... widely cultiwated since ancient time" (Campbell, 1968) and used not only as an ornamental, but also in religious ceremonies, in wedding customs, in medicine, in the perfume industry and for consumption.

The range of *M. communis* basically speaking covers the whole of the Mediterranean region and isolated stands are known from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. The question of indigenity of *M. communis* in the latter two countries and particularily in Pakistan is higly questionable. It is commonly assumed that here it is only: "Cult. widely and apparently and old introduction" ... often found in neglected clumps near villages" (Stewart, 1972). Lately E. Nasir (1979, in. litt.) expressed the opinion that: "So far I know it is an introduction and is cultivated and also found as an escape". Kitamura (1960) in his "Flora of Afghanistan" reports from that country only one stand from Jalalabad but from cultivation. Rechinger (1966) mentions several stands from Afghanistan and Pakistan but does not discuss their character. Parker (1924) believes that the natural range of myrtle extends from southern Europe to Afghanistan and mentions that in the Punjab this species is frequently cultivated. Similar is the opinion of Brandis (1921) who adds, however, that in northwestern Pakistan, in the Dir district, in Panjkora Valley myrtle is very common and truly wild. Not being able to formulate an opinion on the basis of these informations on the enclosed map (Fig. 3) of *M. communis* the distribution

in Afghanistan and Pakistan is omitted. One can, however, point out that a similar pattern of distribution as *M. communis* is shown in south-western Asia also by other Mediterranean trees and shrubs such as *Cupressus sempervirens*, species from the genus *Cercis, Platanus orientalis* and *Cotinus coggygria*. It is not impossible therefore that the stands of myrtle in Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan should be considered as reclict in nature.

In the westerly direction the range of *M. communis* includes Madera and the Azores. On the latter islands according to Hansen (1974) myrtle "... may represent a special variety of growth form of the common species from South-Europe". There very dense, dwarf and creeping shrubs are known which attain only 20 - 30 cm in height.

More detailed data on the range of *M. communis* is reported by Öztürk and Vardar (1974) who quote some of its stands in various countries from the Azores to Pakistan, and also they inform widely about the economic importance of myrtle. A map of distribution (combined point and line map) has been recently prepared by Meusel et al. (1978) however in viev of its small dimentions it does not permit an accurate identification of the localities of occurrence of myrtle — in our case in the Eastern Mediterranean. Here the greatest uncertainties are associated with the region of Greece from where data on the occurrence of myrtle is very limited. Basing on the opinions of some authors one should assume that the situation is just the opposite. This concerns particularily the Peloponnisos and the central and western parts of the country. Boissier (1872) claims that *M. communis* occurs: *"In Graecia omnia praesertim in Peloponeso"*. A similar opinion is voiced by Halácsy (1901): *"In dumetis, sepibus regionis inferioris et montanae per totam Graeciam"*. Both these authors, however, do not mention a single stand that could confirm this opinion. It appears on the basis of the available data that in eastern Greece and on the island there much more stands, though one cannot claim that myrtle is there a common species (except on Kriti). The most northerly stands here occur in southern Macedonia where in 1979 I have found myrtle at the feet of Kerdhillion Oros north of Asprovalta, and also on the island of Thassos. It grows in Greece from the sea level to elevations of 500 - 550 m.

A point map of the range of *M. communis* in Turkey has been prepared by Demiriz (1956). It has been fully utilized here and supplemented by more recent collections, including my own from the years 1975 and 1977 (Fig. 3). Myrtle occurs in Anatolia primarily along the coast of the Aegean and the Mediterranean, more rarely along the Black Sea, here it reaches most to the east near Trabzon. In European Turkey stands are known from the southern tip of the Gelibolu peninsula. Further inland myrtle enters rarely, e.g. in province Isparta, Izmir or Seyhan. Majority of stands is located at lower elevations, primarily

Fig. 3. Distribution of *Myrtus communis* L. in the Eastern Meditarranean (stands of var. *leucocarpa* DC. are marked as triangles)

between 0 and 300 m, rarely up to 500 m. The most elevated stands have been reported from the Amanus mountains up to 600 or even 1000 m, and even higher ones between 1000 and 1300 m from the Mt. Cassius located in northern Syria near the frontier with Turkey (Rechinger, 1963). On Cyprus myrtle attains 1700 m elevation according to Chapman (1949). These latter stands are the same time the most elevated ones in the whole Mediterranean basin. In Lebanon *M. communis* has been also found up to 700 - 800 m near Brummana (Bornmüller, 1897 in sched. no. 5869). In southern Syria on the Golan Hills myrtle has been reported from 200 - 450 m (Karschon, Zohar, 1968). There is no information on vertical distribution in Israel.

Throughout the area myrtle occurs in similar conditions, primarily in various communities of maquis and in the understorey of sparse pine forests (*Pinus halepensis, P. brutia*), and also on seashore rocks and even on dunes where it behaves as a semi-halophyte. Within maquis it usually occupies more mesophytic locations, thus is more common along streams or rivers. It sustaines shade well and is also adapted to full insolation. It grows either as single individuals or in small clumps, sometimes, however, as Zohary reports (1973) "... in the Upper Jordan Valley ... it forms an impenetrable jungle on alluvial soil and on the bank of the Jordan river". According to Ahmed and Vardar (1973) *M. communis* is characterized by considerable ecological plasticity and shows "... a wide range of tolerance to the vicissitudes of physiographic, edaphic, climatic and biotic factors".

In Iraq and Iran stands of myrtle are usually removed from the sea shores and scattered; more common only in southwestern Iran in the Zagros mountains. Closer data on the conditions in which this shrub grows are lacking and only it is known that it occurs at elevations 500 - - 1870 m (Yasuj, 1. 6. 1973, Riazi 10351 — TARI.) and even up to 2000 m as in the case in Baluchistan in the Kuh-e-Taftan Mts. (Bornmüller, 1939). Further up *M. communis* attains in Afghanistan an elevation of 2200 m in the province Laghman (Rechinger, 1966). A map of its distribution (by the blotch method) has been prepared for Iran by Sabeti (1976) however, as can be judged from the available data it is probably to "rich" — myrtle is not so common in Iran.

The considerable variability of *M. communis* has been observed long age and within the species several forms, varieties and subspecies have been recognized some of which were assigned even a species status, however, their systematic value is problematic. In the XVI c. such taxa were already described by Dodoneus, Clusius and Camerarius, and later their full synonymy was first complied by Kaspar Bauhin in 1623 in his "*Pinax theatri botanici*". The list of names later underwent either an increase or a decrease as for example in Tournefort's "*Institutiones Rei Herbariae*", in Linne's "*Hortus Cliffortianus*",

in Duhamel du Monceau's "Traité des Arbres et Arbustes" or in Miller's "The Gardeners Dictionary" (ed. 8). Some order in this respect was introduced by A. P. de Candolle who in the third volume of his "*Prodromus Systematis naturalis Regni Vegetabilis*" (1828) recognized only 8 such taxa dividing them into two varieties: var. *melanocarpa* with black fruits (7 forms) and var. *leucocarpa*.

At the beginning of XXth c. Ruy and Camus (1901) have reduced the list to 5 varieties while Sennen and Teodoro (1929) have expanded it further, using for the purpose their collections from eastern Spain from the region of Tarragone. They based their divisions primarily on the shape and size of leaves and have recognized on this basis 20 taxa. For 18 of these they have prepared a dichotomous key separating all the taxa into two groups: 1) small leaved (2 varieties) and 2) large leaved (16 varieties). These latter ones were further subdivised into two groups each with 8 varieties: 1) with a rounded leaf base and 2) with a cuneate base. Besides they mention several other taxa (from Italy, Balearic Isles and France) about which they did not have a clear opinion. Differences between so defined varieties are frequently very small and the very good small schematic drawings accompaning their paper do not explain anything.

Sennen and Teodoro (l.c.) attach less significance to fruit and do not always report in the described varieties their fruit colour, size or shape. In one case — var. *Rodesi* they write that the fruit are "... *lutescentibus, subpyriforme*". This taxon at least, in view of its fruit colour could correspond to var. *leucocarpa*, and it is this variety that Sennen and Teodoro do not mention in their work. It was found in Tarragone and it is so far the only report of var. *leucocarpa* occurence in Spain.

Recently Cambell (1968) divides *M. communis* only into two basic subspecies: subsp. *communis* and subsp. *tarentina* (L.) Arcangeli, which differ from each other in growth habit, leaf size and fruit shape. Campbell believes that other described varieties "... seem to show no geographic correlation". A special biometric study on the fruit of these two subspecies has been published by Jovančević (1955).

Compiling data from literature and from herbarium collections in order to describe the range of *M. communis* I have attempted at the same time to determine how frequently and where does the white fruit variety of myrtle occur. About the occurrence of such a variety already Clusius wrote in XVI c. when he described it as "*Myrtus domestica fructu albo*". Also Jean Bauhin wrote about it in his "*Historia plantarum universalis*" (*Myrtus vulgaris nigra* et *alba*) and Tournefort (*Myrtus communis, Italica baccis albis* and *Myrtus Hispanica, latifolia, fructu albo*). It turned out, however, that the var. *leucocarpa* is rare and even very rare, restricted only to the shores of the Mediterranean

in Europe and Asia Minor. It was also found on one stand on the Black Sea. The list of stands of this variety is as follows:

Portugal — Coutinho (1939) does not mentions in his Flora of Portugal the var. *leucocarpa*, however, he notes in the description of *M. communis* that fruit, though rare can be white. It is difficult to judge from this whether the information is of general nature or whether it concerns specifically Portugal itself.

Spain — Sennen and Teodoro (1929): Tarragone, Hospitalet, ravines des garrigues calcaires du littoral. A. P. de Candolle (1828): Balearic Isles.

France — Trochain and Delpoux (1970): Massif de la Clape, Narbonne. Rouy and Camus (1901) when listing varieties of *M. communis* occurring in France report that white fruits occur both in var. *italica* and var. *romana* and believe that the rank of var. *leucocarpa* should be reduced to a subvariety.

Italy — Fiori (1923 - 1929) write that fruit can be white but they do not use the name var. *leucocarpa*, and do not mention specific stands.

Greece — A. P. de Candolle (1828), Halácsy (1901) and Hayek (1927) — without mentioning stands. Rechinger (1943): Mytilene — grows together with the type variety with black fruits. Attica, Pentelicon (?), 1859, Heldreich (K.). In Attica near Kifissos stream bed, 25. 12. 1873, Heldreich (ATHU.). In schistosis inter fruticetis prop. Hag. Ierotheos Megaridis, 6. 11. 1955, Pinatzis 11837 (Herb. Pinatzis, Athens) — together with the black fruit variety.

Cyprus — Meikle (1977): wild — near Orga, 1957, Merton 2841; occasionally in cultivation — Syngrassides 1667.

Lebanon — Nábělek (1923): Ad pagum Brumana supra Beirut alt. ca. 700 m. 28.10.1909, Nábělek 108 (under the name var. *angustifolia* Bornm.). Mouterde (1970) — from the text it is not possible to decide whether the stands mentioned by the author concern only that variety or the black fruited one, or else both at the same time. Trochain and Delpoux (1970) — the authors mention that according to a Lebanense student white fruit of *M. communis* "... sont courament vendus sur le marché de Beyrouth".

Turkey — Chamberlain (1972) in "Flora of Turkey" does not mention any varieties of myrtle it notes, however, that the fruit of these species are "... usually bluish black", which would indicate that occasionally they may be otherwise pigmented. Demiriz (1956) reports for the first time the occurrence of *M. communis* var. *leucocarpa* in Anatolia from two stands (together with var. *melanocarpa*): 1. on the Black Sea near Zonguldak and 2. on the Mediterranean near Mersin.

Izmir: Samsun dag, ca. 200 m, 7.10.1970 Akman 7006 (ANK.). Akman (1973) mentions a white fruited variety from the Amanus Mts. unfortunately without any specific stand. It is to occur there at 500 m elevation.

Izmir: west of Izmir on the sea near Balikliova, at the feet of Bölmec Dagi (along the way to Karaburun) on the sea coast itself, 9.11.1977, Browicz, Hantz, Zieliński 69 (KOR.). Shrubs of this variety grew several meters from the sea shore in a small land depression together with var. *melanocarpa*, however, each of the varieties formed a separate clump. They have fruited so copiously that the whiteness of the fruit owerhelmed the greenness of the leaves.

Mugla: near Marmaris, on the edge of a *Liquidambar orientalis* forest, on the sea shore, 10.11.1977, Browicz, Hantz, Zieliński 74 (KOR.). These specimens as distinct from the previous ones differed in fruit shape, which were not ellipsoidal-globular, but distinctly wider in the distal portion — club-shaped. Such a fruit shape agrees with the description of var. *Rodesi* Sennen et Teodoro from Spain (Sennen, Teodoro, 1929).

Besides on the stand of var. *leucocarpa* near Baliklíova, besides clupms of shrubs with white fruits and clumps with black fruits I have also found shrubs with fruits that were reddish, particularily in the upper part. Such a colour of myrtle fruits has not been reported from Turkey before and in literature it is mentioned rather rarely. Fiori (1923 - 1929) mentions it from Italy and Halácsy (1901) from Greece. The latter author includes so pigmented fruit into var. *leucocarpa*. Whether the red fruited form of myrtle deserves to be designated separately as the white fruited form, one will be able to tell after detailed observations in situ during fruit ripening. Possibly such a pigmentation is only of transitory nature and as the fruits ripen will change. Or else we are dealing here with a hybrid between the white and black fruited varieties. Also studies on the shape and size of fruits would be desirable.

SUMMARY

On the basis of rich herbarium materials and date from literature the author has prepared point maps of the distribution of two species of shrubs occurring in maquis communities in the eastern Mediterranean region, and he has described their variability. Special attention was devoted to two varieties: *Clematis cirrhosa* L. var. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Willd. and *Myrtus communis* L. var. *leucocarpa* DC. giving data on their occurrence. The former was found by the author in 1977 in Anatolia on the shores of the Aegean in province Izmir — this is the most easterly stand of this variety throughot the range of *C. cirrhosa*. The latter is known in the eastern Mediterranean from several stands in Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Lebanon. Also this variety was found by the author at the same time in Anatolia in province Izmir and Mugla. On the point maps of distribution, these varieties have been marked by separate symbols.

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Rozmieszczenie i zmienność Clematis cirrhosa L. *i Myrtus communis* L. *we wschodnim Śródziemnomorzu*

Streszczenie

Na podstawie bogatych zbiorów zielnikowych oraz danych z literatury autor opracował punktowe mapy rozmieszczenia dwóch gatunków krzewów występujących w zbiorowiskach makii we wschodnim Śródziemnomorzu.

Pierwszy z nich, *Clematis cirrhosa*, jest pnączem, który kwitnie w okresie zimy i wczesnej wiosny — od listopada do kwietnia. Występuje od samych brzegów morza, zwykle nie wyżej jak do wysokości 700 - 800 m, a tylko na Cyprze i na Sycylii do około 1200 m n.p.m. Na omawianym terenie rozprzestrzeniony jest w Grecji, na Krecie, Wyspach Egejskich, w zachodniej i południowej Anatolii, na Cyprze, w Syrii, Libanie, Jordanii i Izraelu. Jest to gatunek polimorficzny, w obrębie którego wyodrębniono kilka taksonów niższej rangi. Najbardziej charakterystyczny z nich to var. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Willk. o trójdzielnych liściach, opisany z Balearów, a podawany także z Korsyki, Sardynii, Sycylii, Pantellerii oraz Algierii. Autor znalazł tę odmianę w Anatolii nad Morzem Egejskim, na zachód od Izmiru.

Drugi gatunek, *Myrtus communis* L., występuje we wschodnim Śródziemnomorzu na Półwyspie Bałkańskim (Albania, Grecja, Turcja), Krecie i Wyspach Egejskich, a w południowo-zachodniej Azji w Anatolii (nad Morzem Czarnym, Egejskim i Śródziemnym), na Cyprze, w Syrii, Libanie i w Izraelu. Rośnie nad samym morzem, najczęściej po około 500 - 600 m n.p.m., a najwyższe stanowisko znane jest z Cypru — 1700 m. Poza obszarem Śródziemnomorza, na wschodzie, pojawia się mirt także w Iraku, Iranie (do 2000 m n.p.m.), Afganistanie (do 2200 m n.p.m.) oraz w Pakistanie. Status stanowisk w tych dwóch ostatnich krajach — naturalne czy wtórne — jest niejasny, toteż zostały one pominięte na załączonej do pracy mapie zasięgowej.

M. communis jest również bardzo zmiennym gatunkiem, przy czym opisano ponad 20 form, odmian i podgatunków. Jedną z bardziej charakterystycznych odmian jest var. *leucocarpa* DC. odznaczająca się białymi owocami. Znana jest ona jak dotąd z nielicznych stanowisk w Hiszpanii, z Balearów, Francji, Włoch, Grecji, Cypru, Libanu i Turcji. Autor zestawił dane o tych stanowiskach, przytaczając informacje o znalezionych przez siebie w 1977 r. w Anatolii, w prowincji Izmir i Mugla.

КАЗИМЕЖ БРОВИЧ

Размещение и изменчивость Clematis cirrhosa L. *и Myrtus communis* L. *в восточном Средиземноморье*

Резюме

На основании обширных гербарных материалов и литературных источников автором разработана точечная карта размещения двух видов кустарников встречающихся в сообществах маккии в восточном Средиземноморье.

Первый из них, *Clematis cirrhosa* является лианой цветущей в период зимы и ранней весны. Встречается этот вид до самых берегов моря, обычно не выше чем

700 - 800 м, только на Кипре и Сицилии достигает высоты 1200 м над ур. моря. В восточном Средиземноморье он рапространен в Греции, на Крите, Эгейских островах, в западной и южной Анатолии, на Кипре, в Сирии, Ливане, Иордании и Израиле. Это вид полиморфический, в рамках которого выделено несколько более мелких таксонов. Наиболее характерным из них является var. *balearica* (Rich. et Juss.) Willk. с трёхрассечёнными листьями, описанный на Болеарских островах, встречающийся также на Корсике, Сардинии, Сицилии, Пантелерии и Алжире. Автором найдена эта разновидность в Анатолии близь Эгейского моря, на запад от Измира.

Второй вид, *Myrtus communis* L. встречается в восточном Средиземноморье и на Балканском полуострове (Албания, Греция, Турция), Крите и Эгейских островах, а в юго-западной Азии в Анатолии (у Черного, Эгейского Средиземного морей), на Кипре, в Сирии, Ливане и Израиле. Растет у самого моря, чаще всего ниже 500 - 600 м над ур. моря. Самое высокое местообитание известно на Кипре — 1700 м. Вне Средиземноморья, на востоке, появляется мирт в Ираке, Иране (до 2000 м над ур. моря), в Афганистане (до 2200 м над ур. моря) и Пакистане. Происхождение этого вида в двух последних странах — естественное или вторичное — неизвестное, поэтому их не брали во внимание при составлении приложенной к настоящей работе карте ареала.

M. communis является тоже очень изменчивым видом. У него описано свыше 20 форм, разновидностей и подвидов. Одной из наиболее характерных разновидностей является var. *leucocarpa* DC. характеризующаяся белыми плодами Она известна до сих пор с немногочисленных местообитаний в Испании, на Болеарских островах, во Франции, Италии, Греции, на Кипре, в Ливане и Турции. Автором составлены данные об этих местонахождениях и найденных им в 1977 году в Анатолии, в провинции Измир и Мугла.