ISSN: 0211-9714

ACALYPHA RHOMBOIDEA RAF. *(EUPHORBIACEAE)*, NATURALIZED IN PORTUGAL (NEW FOR EUROPE)

João Domingues de Almeida & Arménio da Costa Matos
Departamento de Botânica da Universidade de Coimbra. Arcos do Jardim. P-3049 Coimbra, Portugal. jddalmeida@hotmail.com

BIBLID [0211-9714 (2006) 25, 137-138]
Fecha de aceptación de la nota: 17-10-2006

Acalypha rhomboidea Raf., *New Fl.* 1: 45.1836
Syn.: *A. virginica* L. var. *rhomboidea* (Raf.) Cooperrider, *Michigan Bot.*, 23: 165. 1984

Portugal, **Beira Litoral**: Coimbra, Botanical Garden, growing subspontaneously in several places, 29TNE492510, alt. ca. 70 m above sea level, 10-X-2005, *J. D. Almeida & A. C. Matos* 11600, COI.

Terophyte from North America (United States and Canada); ruderal epecoephyte, according to the classification of synanthropic plants of Kornas (*in* Di Castri & *al.*, *Biological Invasions in Europe and the Mediterranean Basin*: 105-133. 1990), introduced by culture in the Botanical Garden of Coimbra, from where it has been escaping. According to the recently recommended terminology in plant invasion ecology by authors as Pysek *& al.* (Alien plants in checklists and floras: towards better communication between taxonomists and ecologists. *Taxon*, 53 [1]: 131-143. 2004) and Richardson *& al.* (Naturalization and invasion of alien plants: concepts and definitions. *Diversity and Distributions*, 6: 93-107. 2000), *Acalypha rhomboidea* is a naturalized and probably non-invasive species in Coimbra, or may be invasive not harmful.

Naturalized in several places in the city of Coimbra, including gardens and roadsides, where its populations seems to be expanding, this species is new for Portugal and the Iberian Peninsula, not mentioned in *Flora iberica* and the Portuguese

Floras. *Acalypha rhomboidea* Raf. is included in the *Index seminum et sporarum* of the Department of Botany of the University of Coimbra since 1984, and as *Acalypha virginica* L. for more than fifty years (since 1952).

This species seems to be absent from Spain, as is not referred in the very recent *Atlas de las plantas alóctonas invasoras en España* (SANZ ELORZA, DANA SÁNCHEZ & SOBRINO VESPERINAS, 2004).

Acalypha rhomboidea Raf. is described in North-American floras as the *Manual of vascular plants of northeastern United States and adjacent Canada*, ed. 2 (GLEASON & CRONQUIST, 1991) and *The flora of Canada* (SCOGGAN, 1978-1979).

The only species of *Acalypha* currently known as present in Europe is the close *A. virginica* L. as we can see for example in *Flora Europaea* (TUTIN *in* TUTIN & *al.* [eds.], vol. II: 212. 1968) and in *Flora Alpina* (AESCHIMANN & *al.*, vol. I: 994. 2004).

Among the accompanying vascular plants are present the following spontaneous or naturalized ruderal species: *Ailanthus altissima* (Miller) Swingle, *Aster squamatus* (Spreng.) Hieron., *Broussonetia papyrifera* (L.) Vent., *Catapodium rigidum* (L.) C.E. Hubbard, *Celtis australis* L., *Chamaesyce maculata* (L.) Small, *Chamaesyce nutans* (Lag.) Small, *Chamaesyce prostrata* (Aiton) Small, *Conyza canadensis* (L.) Cronq., *Digitaria sanguinalis* (L.) Scop., *Ecballium elaterium* (L.) A. Rich., *Ehrharta erecta* Lam., *Euphorbia peplus* L., *Fumaria muralis* Sonder ex Koch, *Galinsoga parviflora* Cav., *Geranium rotundifolium* L., *Gleditsia triacanthos* L., *Lapsana communis* L., *Medicago lupulina* L., *Medicago polymorpha* L., *Oenothera rosea* L'Hér. ex Aiton, *Oxalis corymbosa* DC., *Oxalis pes-caprae* L., *Parietaria judaica* L., *Physalis ixocarpa* Brot. ex Hornem., *Phytolacca americana* L., *Polygonum aviculare* L., *Populus nigra* L., *Portulaca oleracea* L., *Setaria verticillata* (L.) Beauv., *Smyrnium olusatrum* L., *Solanum chenopodioides* Lam., *Solanum nigrum* L., *Sonchus oleraceus* L. and *Veronica persica* Poir.

Acalypha rhomboidea and the majority of these species can be found in the phytosociogical class *Stellarietea mediae* Tüxen, Lohmeyer & Preising *ex* von Rochow 1951, of annual ephemeral weed, ruderal, nitrophilous and seminitrophilous communities of synanthropic vegetation.

The authors wish to thank Professor Cipriano J. Valle and another (unknown) referee for their valuable comments.

