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SOME REMARKS ON THE BRAMBLE FLORA
OF THE TRENTINO DISTRICT (*Rubus* L. subgen. *Rubus*)

Abstract - HEINRICH E. WEBER - Some remarks on the bramble flora of the Trentino district (*Rubus* L. subgen. *Rubus*).

The bramble species (8 in all) as far as known from the Trentino district in Northern Italy are listed. *Rubus festii* H. E. WEBER (sect. *Corylifolii* ser. *Subthyrsoidei*) is described as a new taxon. The *Rubus* species named by EVERS (1890-1891, 1896) and KERNER (1872) from the Trentino district belong for the most part to singular or local biotypes without taxonomic value, or they are synonymous with *Rubus ulmifolius* SCHOTT.

Key words: Botany - *Rubus-Rosaceae*-Trentino district.

Riassunto - HEINRICH E. WEBER - Alcune annotazioni sulle specie di rovo della Provincia di Trento (*Rubus* L. subgen. *Rubus*).

Sono qui descritte le 8 specie di rovo finora note per la Provincia di Trento. *Rubus festii* H. E. WEBER (sect. *Corylifolii* ser. *Subthyrsoidei*) viene descritto come nuovo taxon. Le specie tridentine di *Rubus*, denominate da EVERS (1890-1891, 1896) e KERNER (1872), risultano essere per lo più biotopi individuali o locali senza valore tassonomico, oppure vanno considerate sinonimi di *Rubus ulmifolius* SCHOTT.

Parole chiave: Botanica - *Rubus* - *Rosaceae* - Trentino-Alto Adige.

1. INTRODUCTION

The *Rubus* flora of Italy is for the greatest part still unexplored. Besides *Rubus ulmifolius* SCHOTT, which is by far the most common and widely spread bramble, obviously just a few other species seem to occur and are often limited to various regions. Additionally, particularly in the Alps, a great number of singular biotypes

is to be found, everyone of them unique. They are hybrids of unknown origin or their derivatives, not stabilized by apomixis or, due to some apomictic progeny, only with a very local distribution. Such plants occur mainly as members of series *Discolores*, *Pallidi*, *Glandulosi*, and sectio *Corylifolii*. Previous botanists - EVERS (1890-1891, 1896) and KERNER (1872) - described some of these single biotypes and hybrids as taxa of their own. However, in modern taxonomy only biotypes with a regional or wider distribution are taxonomically treated. Otherwise millions of different individuals and an innumerable amount of local biotypes ought to be named and would lead taxonomy ad absurdum (WEBER 1995, 1996).

Several years ago, FRANCESCO FESTI and FILIPPO PROSSER (Musei Civici di Comune di Rovereto), started to gather *Rubus* specimens in the Trentino district and sent them year after year to the author for determination. By this way the knowledge of the bramble flora of that district could be improved, and some of the results are presented here. A list of species known so far from the Trentino district is given. Details on their distribution will be published later by the finders. Additionally, a list is presented of *Rubus* «species» of the Trentino district as described and named by EVERS (1890-1891, 1896) and KERNER (1872). Brief comments on these taxa are added, and most of them are typified here. One bramble is described as a new species.

2. BRAMBLE SPECIES DESCRIBED BY PREVIOUS BOTANISTS FROM THE TRENTO DISTRICT

Two of these taxa, named by EVERS (1890-1891, 1896) and KERNER (1872), have been proved to be synonymous with *Rubus ulmifolius*, a few others may represent merely modifications of that species. The remainders seem to belong to singular or possibly local biotypes without taxonomic value.

Rubus baldensis KERNER 1872, Ber. Naturwiss.-Med. Vereines Innsbruck 2: 144. Loc. typ. indic.: «in Tirolia australi et in Venetia in regione inferiore montis Baldi solo calcareo et argillaceo». - Type: Tirol, Brentonico am Fuße des M. Baldo, 1870, KERNER s. n. (WU-K, lectotype sel. here).

A representative of ser. *Discolores* with stout prickles and fairly narrow leaflets covered above with many stellate and longer simple hairs. Probably a hybrid derived from a species of ser. *Discolores* (*Rubus ulmifolius*?) and *R. canescens*.

Rubus brentonico EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 61, «? *R. superdiscolor* x *tomentosus* Hal.?») Loc. typ. indic.: «Monte Baldo, ober Brentonico gegen das Coppiothal zu», 19. 7. 1895, EVERS. - Type not seen.

A member of ser. *Discolores* with rose-red («rosenrot») flowers. Leaves with stellate hairs above and therefore obviously also a hybridogenous derivative of *Rubus canescens*, and, according to the flower colour, most probably of *R. ulmifolius*, too.

Rubus bruginoensis EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 63, «*R. tomentosus glaber x dalmatinus?*, non *R. dalmatinus (ulmifolius) x tomentosus = R. baldensis* Kern.» - Loc. typ. indic.: «Mori, an felsigen bebuschten Abhängen des Monte Brugino oberhalb Nomesino», 15. 5. 1894, EVERS. - Type: Italia, Tirolia australis, Mori, in dumetis rupestribus montis Brugino super Nomesino, 15. 5. 1894, EVERS 8594 (GZU, lectotype sel. by MONASTERIO-HUELIN & WEBER 1996: 315; W, isolectotype).

Taxonomically synonymous with *Rubus ulmifolius*.

Rubus cognolensis EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 62, «(? *R. tomentosus x discolor?*)». - Loc. typ. indic.: «Trient, felsige Weinberge bei Cognola.» - Type: Tridentum, Cognola, in vinetis, 22. 6. 1895, EVERS 8946, «*Rubus cognolensis* m. *Rub. tomentosus glaber x discolor* f. *albiflora*» (GZU, lectotype sel. here, GZU 4 isolectotypes).

A bramble with 5-nate leaves, thickly whitish-felted beneath, the upper side described as «scheinbar kahl, gegen das Licht schimmernd (von mikroskopischen Sternhärchen)», which are not to be seen from the type material. Leaflets somewhat rhombic, coarsely serrate. A member of ser. *Discolores* and, according to the leaf shape, possibly a hybrid of *Rubus canescens*.

Rubus decumbens EVERS 1890, Deutsche Bot. Monatsschrift 8: 72. - Loc. typ. indic.: «Monto Baldo», leg. EVERS («bei S. Giacomo im Felsgerölle», EVERS 1896: 62). - Type: unknown (not to be found in GZU).

According to the description a representative of ser. *Discolores* and very close to *Rubus ulmifolius*, but having smaller leaves with short-stalked terminal leaflets. Possibly an untypical form of *Rubus ulmifolius*.

Rubus loppiensis EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 64, «*R. sulcatus x brachybothrys?*». Loc. typ. indic.: «Mori, in declivibus saxosis et dumetosis montis Brugino super pagum Nomesino vallemque Loppiensem», 15. 5. 1894, EVERS. - Type: Tirolia australis, Mori, in dumetis pietrosis circa pagum Nomesino, 15. 5. 1894, EVERS 8788 (GZU, lectotype sel. here, GZU isolectotype).

A biotype belonging to ser. *Discolores*. Somewhat similar to *Rubus praecox*, but with weaker prickles and roundish, shorter-stalked leaflets.

Rubus maranzae EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 59, «*R. caesius x sulcatus?*». - Loc. typ. indic.: «Trient: Monte Maranza, Monte Celva, Passo di Rencogno.» - Type: Tridentum: mons Maranza, mons Celva, Passo di Rencogno, in locis saxosis et dumetosis solo calcar., 23. 5., 9. 6. [18]90 et saepius, EVERS s. n. (GZU, lectotype sel. here, GZU 2 isolectotype).

var. *coriaceus* EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 60. - Loc. typ. indic.: «Trient, Maranza, im Steingerölle über Villazzano.» - Type: Tridentum, Maranza, in locis pietrosis super Villazzano, 19. 6. 1895, EVERS 8977 (GZU, lectotype sel. here, GZU isolectotype).

A member of sect *Corylifolii* ser. *Subthyrsoidei*, with 5nate leaves and deeply incised leaflets reminding of *Rubus mollis* J. & C. PRESL, much different from *Rubus festii*. The var. *coriaceus* is merely a modification from a more sunny and dry place.

Rubus tridentinus EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 63, «*R. rusticanus* x *discolor*?» - Loc. typ. indic.: «Trient, Muralta, an Weinbergsmauern, verbreitet.» - Type: Tridentum, Muralta, in vinetis, ad vias in muris, in pietrosis, 30. 9. 1889/15. 6. 1891, EVERS 8594 (W, lectotype sel. by MONASTERIO-HUELIN & WEBER 1996: 315).

Taxonomically synonymous with *Rubus ulmifolius*.

Rubus vezzanensis EVERS 1896, Verh. K.-K. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 46: 64. - Loc. typ. indic.: «Tridentum, in locis herbosis rupestribus inter Vezzano et Terlago, solo calcar.» - Type: Tridentum, in locis rupestribus herbosis collium inter pagum Vezzano et Terlago, 6. 7. 1892, EVERS 8952 (GZU, lectotype sel. here, GZU isolectotypes).

A strange and probably unique representative of ser. *Discolores* with ternate leaves. Leaflets deeply cut, the terminal ones cordate-based, ovate to triangular. Inflorescence densely prickled.

3. *Rubus festii* H. E. WEBER NOV. SPEC. (FIG. 1)

Turio viridis usque paulum vinosus, aliquantum pruinosis, obtuse vel modice acute angulatus faciebus vulgo planis, glaber, glandulis stipitatis nullis, aculeis subaequalibus rectis vel leviter reclinatis usque 3-4 (-4,5) mm longis, e basi usque 3 mm lato subito ad <1 mm angustatis, 7-15 per 5 cm armatus.

Folia paulo (1-2 mm) pedato 5nata, supra plerumque 5-10 pilis per cm², subtus viridia, pilis ad tactum paulo perceptibilibus pilosa, pilisque stellulatis minutis fere nullis. *Foliolum terminale* modice longe petiolulatum (longitudo petioluli vulgo 32-37 % longitudinis laminulae), e basi leviter cordata ovatum vel late ellipticum apice plerumque 10-15 mm longe attenuatum, subaequaliter usque periodice dentibus subcuneatis grosse, 3-4 mm alte dentibus principalibus saepe paulo longioribus serratum. *Foliola* infima 0-1 mm petiolulata. *Petiolus* foliolis infimis multo longior, subtus glaber, supra pilis paucis glandulis stipitatis nullis obsitus, vulgo 7-10 aculeis subulatis reclinatis vel leviter curvatis munitus. *Stipulae* anguste (0,7-1 mm) lanceolatae vel sublineares.

Inflorescentia subconica, apice obtusa, vulgo 3-5 (rarius usque 8) cm infra apicem aphylla, praeterea foliis 1-5natis subtus subcanescentibus, + pilis minutis stellulatis obsitis, foliolis terminalibus basi plerumque subcordata late ellipticis vel ovatis. *Rachis* leviter pilosa praeterea apicem versus pilis minutis stellulatis obsita, glandulis stipitatis nullis vel paucis, aculeis subulatis reclinatis vel subcurvatis usque 3 mm longis, circa 5-8 per 5 cm munita. *Pedicelli* pro maxima parte 10-15 mm longi, dense pilis usque 0,5 mm patentibus, glandulis sessilibus et glandulis usque 0,1 mm stipitatis 0-10 instructi, 2-6 aculeis rectis vel subcurvatis usque 1-1,5 mm longis armati. *Sepala* ± patentia, inermia, canoviridia. *Petala* alba, obovata,

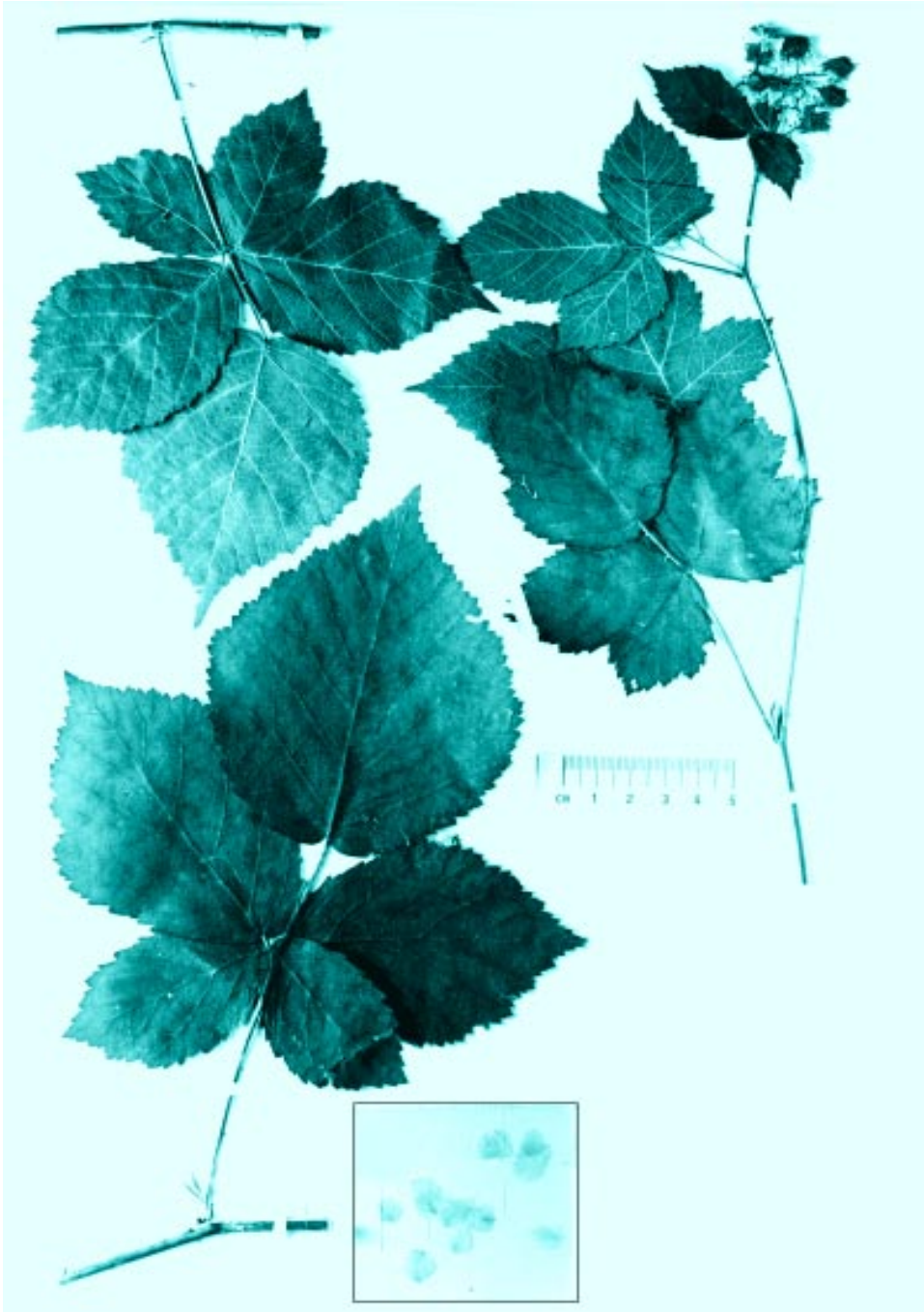


Fig. 1 - *Rubus festii* H. E. WEBER. - Holotype (ROV).

subrotundata, distincte ca. 1 mm unguiculata, pro maxima parte 10-13 mm longa. Stamina alba stylos alboflavescentes raro basi rubescentes parum superantia. Antherae glabrae. Ovaria glabra. Receptaculum paulo pilosum. Floret (V-) VI (-VIII).

Rubus e sectione *Corylifolii* LINDLEY ser. *Subthyrsoidei* FOCKE. Crescit in Italia septentrionali (Tridentinae Alpes).

Typus: Along the road to Laghetto di Monterovere, near the last bend before the little lake. Trento (Trentino - Alto Adige), altitudine 1200 m, 1. 8. 1995, F. FESTI 16/95 (ROV, holotypus; GZU, ROV, herb. Weber isotypi).

Nominatus honore cl. botanini FRANCESCO FESTI (Museo Civico di Rovereto), qui huium Rubum invenit.

Stem greenish to slightly reddish, bluntly to sharply angled, with \pm flat sides, glabrous and glandless. Prickles 7-15 per 5 cm, subequal, patent to slenderly declining, 3-4 (-4,5) mm, immediately above their (up to 3 mm broad) base narrowed to less than 1 mm.

Leaves 5-nate, slightly (1-2 mm) pedate, above mostly with 5-10 hairs per cm², greenish to very slightly greyish-green beneath, moderately hairy with simple hairs hardly to be felt by touch and with a few stellulate hairs, sometimes subtomentose. *Terminal leaflets* moderately stalked (petiolule usually 32-37 % as long as the lamina), ovate to broadly elliptical, with a slightly cordate base and an apex usually 10-15 mm. Serration coarse, up to 3-4 mm deep, irregular with moderately cuspidate teeth and often longer (not recurved) principal teeth. Basal leaflets 0-1 mm stalked. *Petiole* glabrous beneath, slightly hairy above, with 7-10 reclined to slightly curved prickles. Stipules narrowly lanceolate to sublineate, 0,7-1 mm broad.

Inflorescence subconical, the upper 3-5 (-8) cm leafless, otherwise with 1-5-nate leaves, greyish green and somewhat tomentose beneath, the terminal leaflets ovate to broadly elliptical, usually with a subcordate base. *Rachis* scarcely hairy, towards the top increasingly covered with small stellate hairs, mostly with sessile and often with a few (3-5 per 5 cm) stalked glands, prickles mostly 5-8 per 5 cm, slender, slightly declining or very little curved, about 3 mm. *Pedicels* chiefly 10-15 mm, with dense small tufted hairs up to 0,5 mm and with sessile and 1-10 stalked glands up to 0,1 mm; prickles 2-6, subequal, a little declining, 1-1,5 mm. Sepals greyish green, without prickles, \pm patent. Petals white, 10-13 mm, roundish, with a distinct claw ca. 1 mm. Stamens white, slightly exceeding yellowish-white, rarely reddish-based styles. Anthers and ovaries glabrous, receptacle with few hairs. Flowering time (V-) VI (-VIII).

The species belongs to sect. *Corylifolii* LINDLEY ser. *Subthyrsoidei* FOCKE, and it is named in honour of FRANCESCO FESTI (Municipal Museum of Rovereto), who started, together with F. PROSSER, the exploration of brambles of the Trentino district and gathered this plant. Its typical features are somewhat pruinose stems

with 5-nate coarsely serrate leaves, usually not felted beneath. The type specimens were gathered from a somewhat shady place. At sunny places the leaves may develop more felt, which otherwise is to be found merely on the uppermost leaves of the inflorescence. In the Trentino district similar biotypes have been collected by F. FESTI, mostly different from *Rubus festii* by more roundish, more evenly serrate leaflets, markedly felted beneath. The species was already gathered 1896 by EVERS, but not named (see list of specimens).

The distribution of *Rubus festii*, as far as known till now, covers parts of the region of Rovereto (Trentino - Alto Adige) and is represented, besides the type collection, by the following specimens:

Presso Monterovere, alt. 1150 m, F. FESTI 25. 7. 1993 (ROV, herb. WEBER). - Semedere sopra Mezzana, at. 860 m, 15. 6. 1994, F. FESTI (ROV, herb. WEBER). - Pian di Pur, above Lake Ledro (Val di Ledro), alt. 900 m, 4. 7. 1995, F. FESTI 15/95 (ROV, herb. WEBER). - Near Ristorante S. Colombano (Comune di Rovereto), along the road to Vallarsa - Trento, in a waste, fully sunny place, alt. 230 m, 2. 7. 1995, F. FESTI 15A/95, specimen with felted leaves (ROV, herb. WEBER). - Near Lago di Loppio (Comune di Mori), along the main road, on the first bend below Passo S. Giovanni - Trento, alt. 230 m, 22. 6. 1995, F. FESTI 07/95 (ROV, herb. WEBER). - Sega di Rovereto (Comune di Rovereto), between the Oleificio Costa and the torrent Leno - Trento, 230 m, 2. 7. 1995, F. FESTI 16A/95 (ROV, herb. WEBER). - S. Ilario, near the Brione little park (Comune di Rovereto), 200 m, 7. 6. 1995, F. FESTI 4/95, not typical («petals pale rose, but white-greenish near the base». - ROV, herb. WEBER). - Tridentum, in miris vinetarum ad pagum Casteller, 1. 6. 1896, EVERS s. n., indet. (GZU).

4. SURVEY OF BRAMBLE SPECIES HITHERTO KNOWN FROM THE TRENTINO DISTRICT

Sectio *Rubus*

Subsectio *Rubus*

1. *Rubus nessensis* HALL - Obviously rare.
2. *Rubus sulcatus* VEST - Scattered.

Subsectio *Hiemales* E. H. L. KRAUSE

Ser. *Discolores* (P. J. MÜLLER) FOCKE

3. *Rubus ulmifolius* SCHOTT - By far the most common bramble.
4. *Rubus bifrons* VEST - Scattered.
5. *Rubus praecox* BERT. - Not rare.

Ser. *Canescentes* H. E. WEBER

6. *Rubus canescens* DC. - Scattered.

Ser. *Glandulosi* (WIMMER & GRAB.) FOCKE

7. *Rubus hirtus* WALDST. & KIT. agg. - This aggregate comprises the innumerable unstabilized brambles of ser. *Glandulosi* with dark glands. They are fairly common in higher altitudes.

Sect. *Corylifolii* LINDLEY

8. *Rubus festii* H. E. WEBER. - Scattered (see above).

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