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Typification of the name *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl (Orobanchaceae) with taxonomic notes

Gianniantonio Domina & Jan Stepánek

Abstract

DOMINA G. & J. STEPANEK (2009). Typification of the name *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl (Orobanchaceae) with taxonomic notes. *Candollea* 64: 31-37. In English, English and French abstracts.

The taxonomic status of *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl (*Orobanchaceae*), a frequently mistaken species described from Sicily and quite common in the central Mediterranean, is discussed and its name typified. An epitype is also designated as the original material is seriously damaged.

Key-words

OROBANCHACEAE – *Orobanche* – Nomenclature – Typification – Taxonomy

Résumé

DOMINA G. & J. STEPANEK (2009). Typification du nom *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl (Orobanchaceae) additionné de notes taxonomiques. *Candollea* 64: 31-37. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Le statut taxonomique de *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl (*Orobanchaceae*), une espèce mal identifiée décrite originellement de Sicile et commune en Méditerranée centrale, est discuté et son nom typifié. Un épitype est désigné étant donné que le matériel original est sérieusement endommagé.

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Orobanche canescens C. Presl (*Orobanchaceae*) is one of the most frequently mistaken species of the genus *Orobanche* L. due to its short original description and to its high intraspecific variability not untypical in this genus. For this reason, with the aim of carrying out a revision of this genus in the Mediterranean area, the study of the original material of the Mediterranean species, in conjunction with field observations, has started (DOMINA & MAZZOLA, 2004, 2005, 2007; DOMINA & al., 2005).

PRESL (1822) described *O. canescens* on material collected during his tour to Sicily in spring 1817. This material is now housed in PRC where most of Presl's Sicilian specimens have been kept.

The modern delimitation of this species is due to the studies of BECK VON MANNAGETTA (1890, 1930) who examined the original material “*vidi spec. orig. in herb. univ. germ. Praagensis insectis valde afflicta...*” but gave a large interpretation of the species including under this name several taxa described from Sicily and Sardinia. Starting from the study of the original material (PRC) and other specimens housed in B, BOLO, CAT, FI, NAP, P, PAL, PRC, RO, W and after detailed field studies, it has been possible to distinguish *O. canescens* from the other species close to *O. minor* Sm., and subsequently to map its distribution. Taking into account the taxonomic complexity of the group together with the advanced state of deterioration of the original material, it seems to be very desirable to complete the type material by designating an interpretative type (epitype) in order to preserve the application of the name in Presl's sense and to avoid future misinterpretations. We designated an epitype and deposited duplicates in PRC and FI. As epitype, a plant collected in the vicinity of Palermo where the original gathering by C. Presl came from, has been selected by us.

Orobanche canescens C. Presl in J. Presl & C. Presl, *Delic. Prag.*: 72. 1822.

Lectotypus (designated here): **SICILY**: “*Orobanche canescens Presl del. I. 72., O. minor Presl fl. sic. XXXIV nec Smith. In pascuis et pratis siccis ad Panormum Siciliae*” [C. Presl], V.1817, *Presl s.n.* (PRC [450908]!; iso: PRC [450909]!) (Fig. 1 & 2).

Epitypus (designated here): **SICILY. Palermo**: *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl on *Carlina sicula*, San Martino delle Scale, 38°06'15.35"N 13°16'11.45"E, 375 m, 26.IV.2004, *Domina, G. s.n.* (PAL [56362]!); iso: PRC!, FI!) (Fig. 3).

Flowering *stem* simple, 10-30(-50) cm, angulate, glandular-puberulent to hairy, yellow or yellowish, 4-7 mm Ø under the spike. *Scale leaves* lax and lanceolate. *Spike* lax; flowers erect to erect-spreading; bracts pubescent, 12-20 mm long, lanceolate, obtuse, equalling to exceeding the corolla; calyx 7-12 mm long, unequally bifid with segments linear-acuminate, richly glandular pubescent; corolla 10-19 mm, glandular pubescent, creamy yellow often with purple veins near the apex; dorsal line evenly curved over its entire length or slightly bent downward near the apex; upper lip emarginated with lobes directed forward; lobes of lower lip directed forward, sub-equal or the central slightly larger than the laterals, all lobes rounded and denticulate; stamens inserted 2-3 mm above the corolla base; filaments densely hairy below; ovary glabrous or sparsely pubescent; style and stigma glabrous; stigma lobes yellow or whitish (Fig. 4)

Habitat and distribution. – In Sicily, *O. canescens* occurs from 0 to 900 m infecting *Galactites tomentosus* Moench, *Carlina nebrodensis* Guss., *C. sicula* Ten., *Glebionis coronaria* (L.) Tzvelev and some other *Asteraceae*. It is more frequent in coastal plains and hills in the northern part of the island but it has also been found in the inland south of Palermo, in the Madonie and Nebrodi mountains and in the south. It also occurs in all the islands surrounding Sicily.

In the Mediterranean, the species is also known from Sardinia (DOMINA & ARRIGONI, 2007), central and southern Italy (B!, NAP!, PAL!), Malta (CAT!, PAL!), Greece (GREUTER & al., 1989) and Crete (*Foley, M. s.n.*, 1992). Its presence in N Africa, the Aegean Islands, Turkey and on the E coast of the Adriatic is anticipated.

Discussion. – This name applies to a species close to *Orobanche minor* Sm. It has often been misunderstood with other similar species (CHATER & WEBB, 1972). But apart from *O. hederiae* Duby, *O. artemisiae-campestris* Gaudin and *O. amethystea* Thuill., easily distinguishable by the shape of the corolla, *O. canescens* differs from *O. minor* Sm., *O. pubescens* d'Urv. and *O. litorea* Guss., mainly by the densely hairy base of the stamens, the acute angle of insertion of the corolla and, in a lesser extent, by the yellow or whitish stigma (Fig. 5).

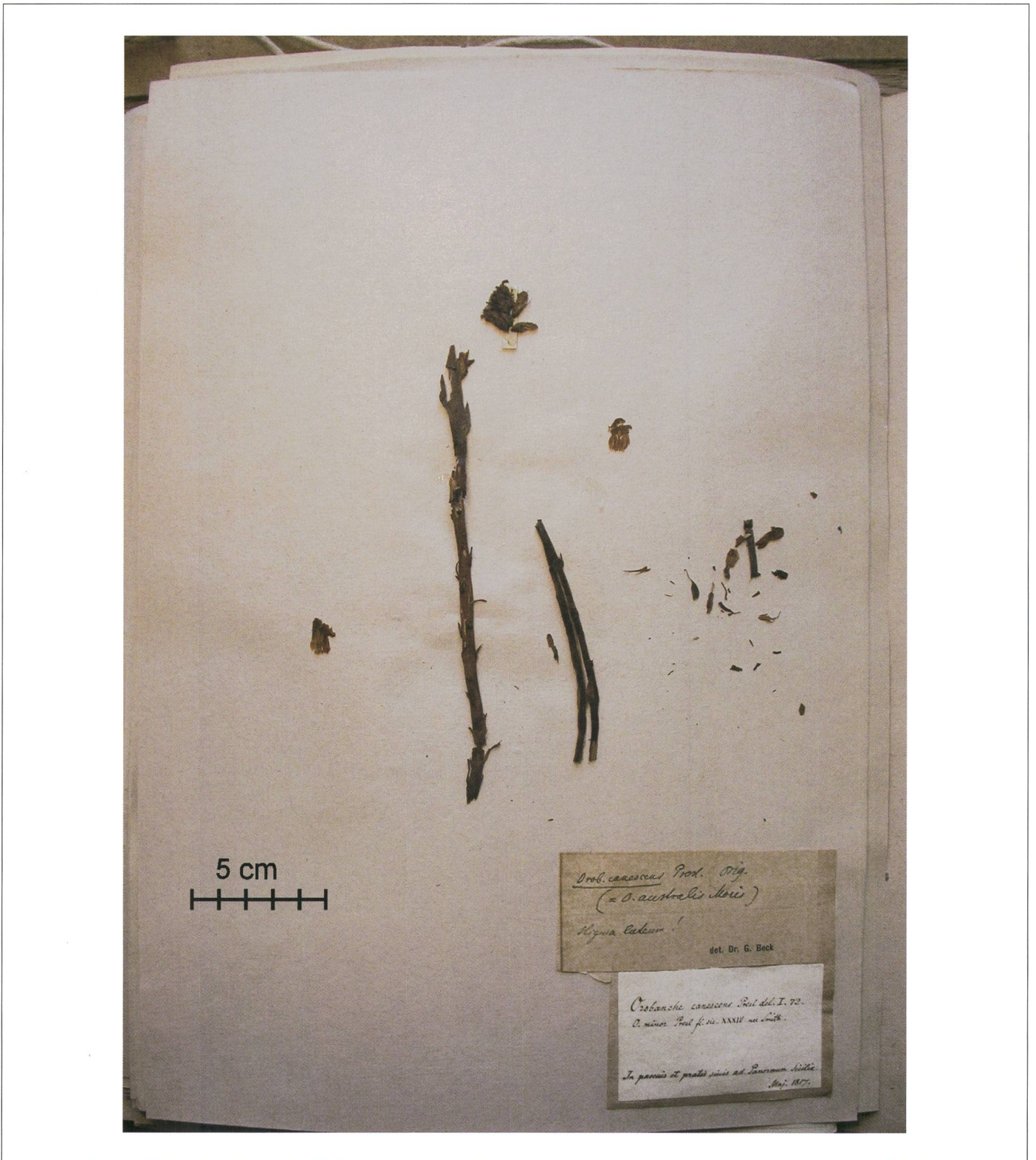


Fig. 1. – Lectotype of *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl.

[Presl s.n., PRC] [© Herbarium of the Charles University in Prague. Reproduced with permission]

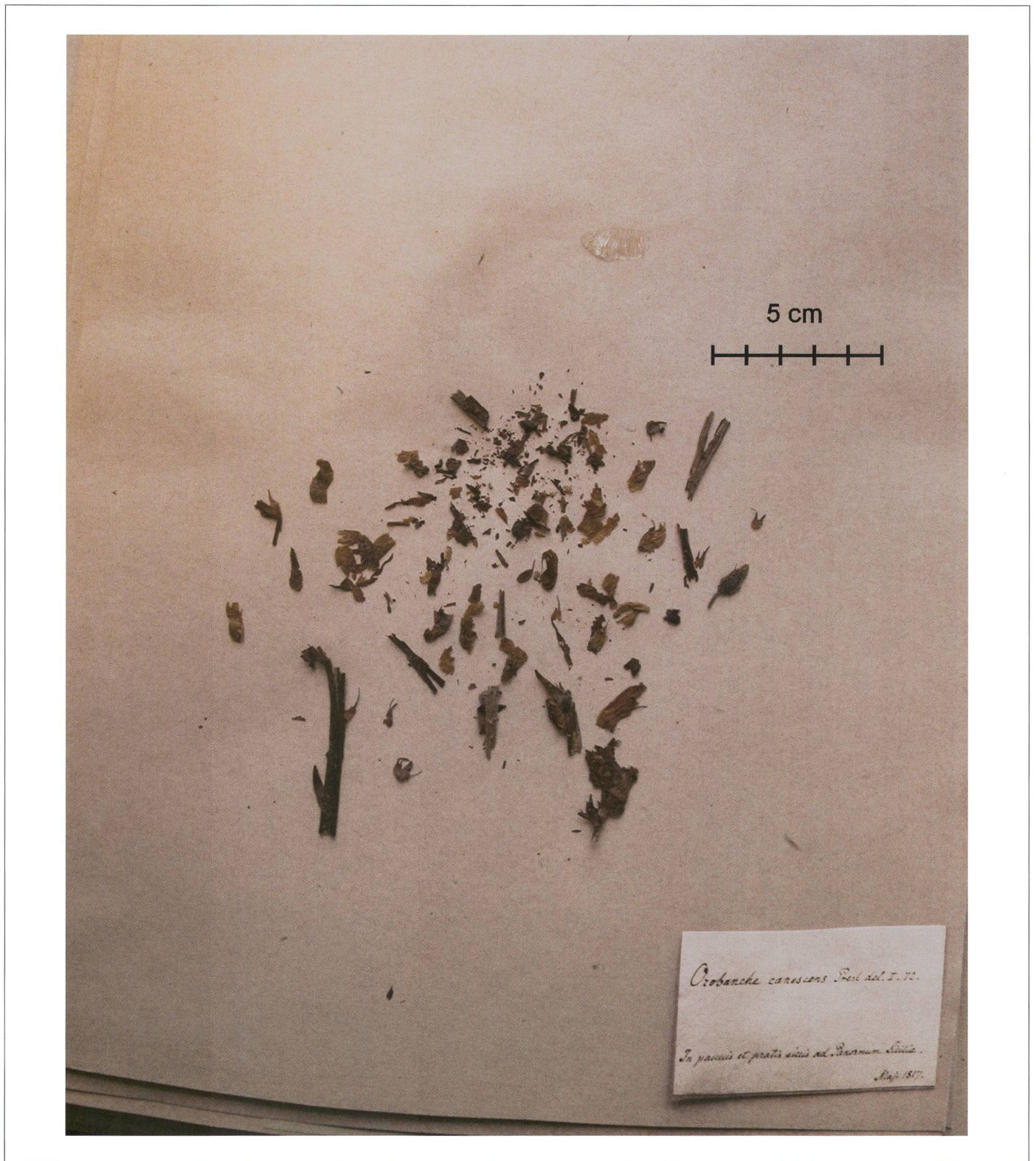


Fig. 2. – Isolectotype of *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl.

[Presl s.n., PRC] [© Herbarium of the Charles University in Prague. Reproduced with permission]



Fig. 3. – Epitype of *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl.

[Domina s.n., PAL] [© Herbarium Mediterraneum Panormitanum. Reproduced with permission]

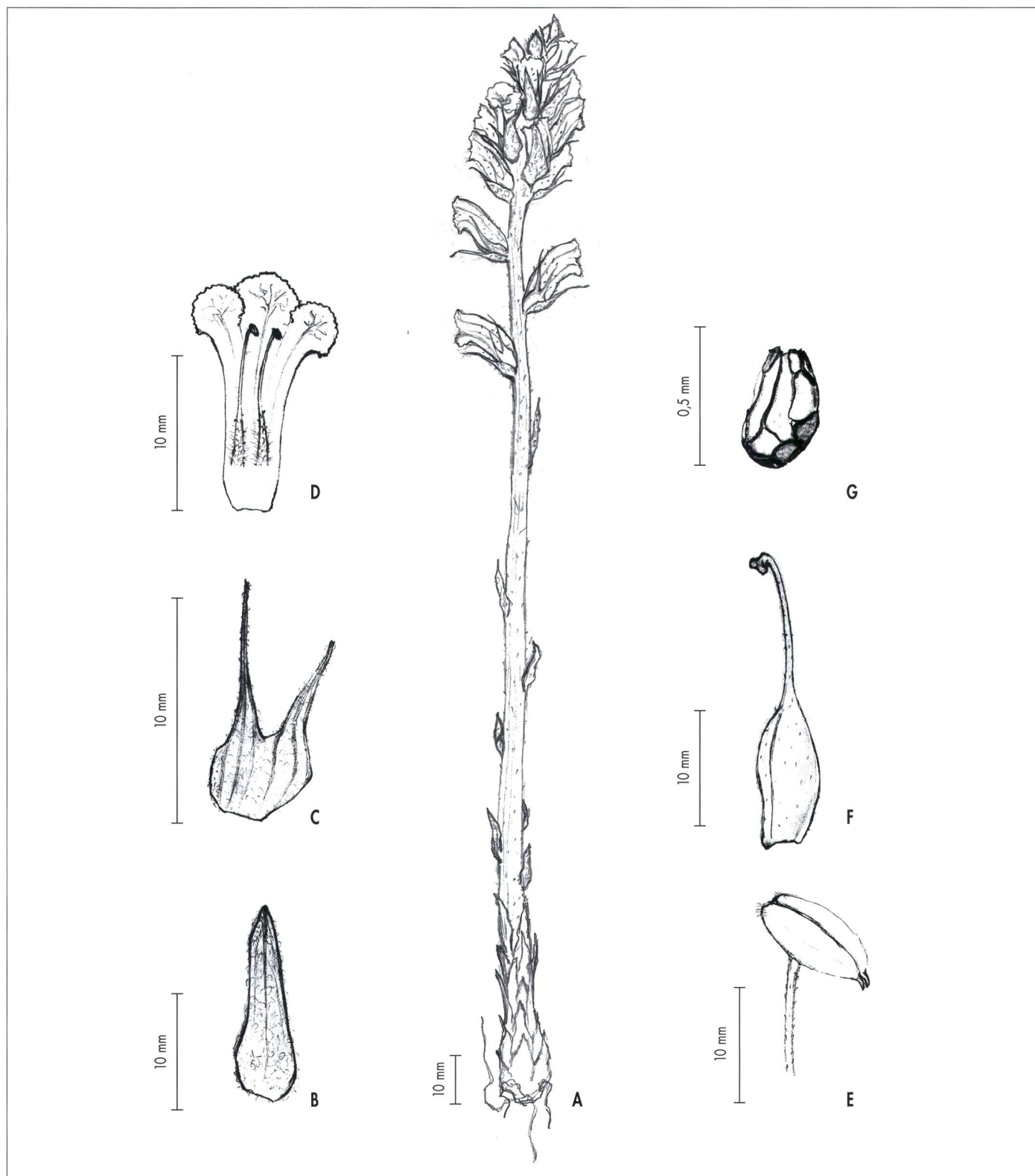


Fig. 4. – Drawings of *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl based on Presl's collections and fresh plants. **A.** Habit; **B.** Bract; **C.** Calyx segment; **D.** Lower lip and stamens; **E.** Anther; **F.** Style, stigma and ovary; **G.** Seed.

[Drawn by Giannantonio Domina]

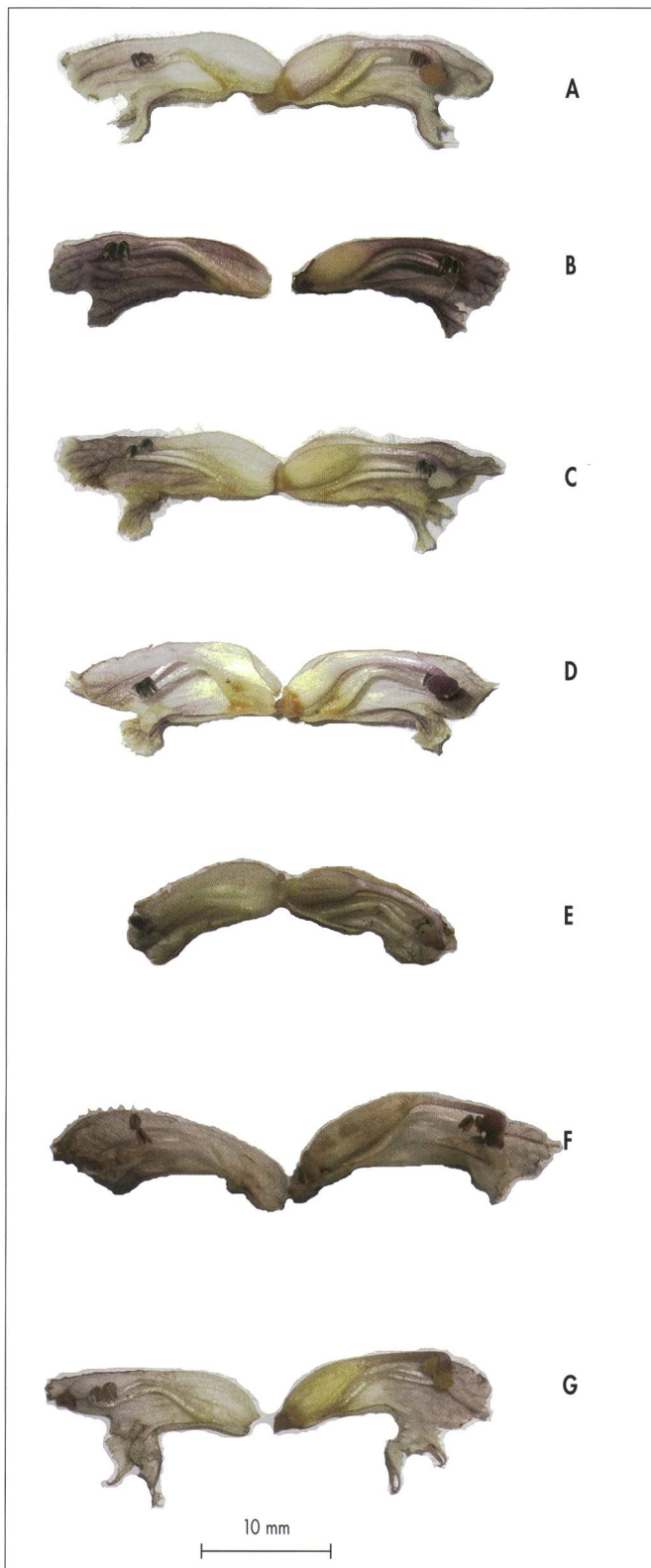


Fig. 5. – Longitudinal sections of fresh calyx. **A.** *Orobanche canescens* C. Presl; **B.** *O. minor* Sm.; **C.** *O. pubescens* d'Urv.; **D.** *O. litorea* Guss.; **E.** *O. hederæ* Duby; **F.** *O. artemisiae-campestris* Gaudin; **G.** *O. amethystea* Thuill.

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