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Authors: Gregor, Thomas, Tison, Jean-Marc, and Garraud, Luc

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# Neotypification of *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (Rosaceae)

Thomas Gregor, Jean-Marc Tison & Luc Garraud

## Abstract

GREGOR, T., J.-M. TISON & L. GARRAUD (2013). Neotypification of *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (Rosaceae). *Candollea* 68: 155-158. In English, English and French abstracts.

A neotype is chosen for the name *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (*Rosaceae*) for which the nomenclatural history is given. The description of the taxon is also reported.

## Key-words

ROSACEAE – *Potentilla* – Typification

## Résumé

GREGOR, T., J.-M. TISON & L. GARRAUD (2013). Néotypification de *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (Rosaceae). *Candollea* 68: 155-158. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

Un néotype est choisi pour le nom *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (*Rosaceae*) pour lequel l'histoire nomenclaturale est rapportée. La description du taxon est aussi donnée.

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Addresses of the authors: TG: Department Botany and Molecular Evolution, Senckenberg Research Institute, Senckenberganlage 25, 60325 Frankfurt/Main, Germany. Email: [thomas.gregor@senckenberg.de](mailto:thomas.gregor@senckenberg.de)

JMT: 14, promenade des Baldaquins, 38080 L'Isle d'Abeau, France.

LG: Conservatoire Botanique National de Gap-Charance, Quartier de Charance, 05000 Gap, France.

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## Introduction

*Potentilla cinerea* Vill. is the oldest name for the group of *Potentilla* L. with stellate hairs and was created by VILLARS (1779). The diagnosis is short: "*Potentilla foliis quinis obovatis molliter villosis, obtuse serratis ; caulibus prostratis. [...] Affinis Potent. vernæ Linn.*" Villars ascribed the name to Dominique Chaix (1730-1799). "*Pentaphyllum montanum minus luteo Tormentillæ flore cineraceum*" from BARRELIER (1714: 709) is cited as a possible synonym, probably because neither Barrelier's description nor the engraving is very informative. Later, VILLARS (1789: 566-567) renamed the species with the illegitimate name *P. opaca* Vill. (illegitimate because *P. opaca* L. in 1759), cited the engraving of Barrelier without a question mark, added a detailed description to his diagnosis from 1779. Most importantly, he informed the public about the only location: "Elle vient sur des rochers à l'abri, et parmi des broussailles, sur une montagne des Baux proche Gap [...]".

The name *P. cinerea* is widely used for *Potentilla* taxa with stellate hairs: *P. cinerea* subsp. *incana* (G. Gaertn., B. Mey. & Scherb.) Asch., *P. cinerea* subsp. *velutina* (Lehm.) Nyman, and *P. cinerea* subsp. *tommasiniana* (F. W. Schultz) Vel. This specific name was used for the whole complex in France (e.g. COSTE, 1901; FOURNIER, 1940), Spain (e.g. BOLÒS & VIGO, 1984; GUILLÉN & RICO, 1998), Italy (e.g. PIGNATTI, 1982; CONTI & al., 2005), and alpine countries (AESCHIMANN & al., 2004). Swiss authors, traditionally, use *P. cinerea* in a narrow sense (e.g. BINZ & THOMMEN, 1966), but not always according to its typical populations described here (LAUBER & WAGNER, 2007), though the typical taxon does exist in this country. This species is restricted to the Southwest Alps in Switzerland, France, and Italy. The typification of *P. cinerea* will, hopefully, stabilize the use of the name.

No material related to *P. cinerea* could be found in Villar's herbarium. TIMBAL-LAGRAVE (1856: 61) mentioned a specimen of "*Potentilla opaca* Vill. *P. cinerea*" in "v. 4, fol. 15" of Chaix's herbarium which might belong to the original material. After Chaix's death in 1799, his main herbarium was bought by Philippe P. Lapeyrouse and came to Toulouse where it was studied by TIMBAL-LAGRAVE (1856). This herbarium is missing today.

Another small herbarium from Chaix "Reliquae Chaixianae" is housed at GAP and includes two specimens named *P. opaca* without date (Fig. 1, bottom row, right):

a) the right plant (unfortunately bearing the label) belongs to a peculiar type of *P. verna* L. with spreading hairs on the petioles, which is common in the southwestern Alps including the locality of Rabou;

b) the left plant in contrast belongs to *P. cinerea*. We are unable to know if the latter specimen is an original material though the name *P. opaca* (subsequent to *P. cinerea*) suggests it is not. However, it is a suitable neotype. The plant is in good condition, representative of the taxon, and indirectly linked to the description by Chaix, thus as close to Villars's concept as possible.

***Potentilla cinerea*** Vill., Prosp. Hist. Pl. Dauphiné: 46. 1779.

≡ *Potentilla opaca* Vill., Hist. Pl. Dauphiné 3: 566. 1788 [nom. illeg.]

≡ *Potentilla verna* subsp. *cinerea* (Vill.) Schübl. & G. Martens, Fl. Württemberg: 341. 1834.

≡ *Potentilla acaulis* subsp. *cinerea* (Vill.) Soják in Preslia 65: 129. 1993.

**Neotypus** (here designated): "*Potentilla opaca*", Reliquae Chaixianae, s.d., s.coll. (GAP [GAP002134], arrow) (Fig. 1).

Mat-forming perennial *subshrub* with rooting, mostly subterranean creeping woody stems; ascending flowering stems up to 15 cm tall; leaves on both sides with a more or less continuous tomentum of stellate hairs, its density increases with light exposure. Stellate *hairs* with 10-20 short rays and sometimes a long central hair up to 0.5 mm long. *Leaves* rarely ternate, mostly 5-digitate; petioles with few-branched stellate hairs and simple hairs of about 0.3 mm length as well as patent hairs of 2-3 mm length, the latter being absent in related species, all hairs translucent; central leaflet 15-23 × 7-9 mm, oblong-obovate with a cuneate base, apically dentate from about the middle, teeth mostly blunt, grey-green above, grey beneath; stipules of basal leaves linear, about 1 cm long. *Flowers* 1-6, in cymes. *Sepals* ovate or ovate-lanceolate; epicalyx-segments lanceolate or elliptical, usually shorter than sepals. *Petals* 4-7 mm, light yellow to golden yellow, longer than sepals. Achenes rugose; style conical at base, slightly clavate at apex. *Chromosome* number  $2n = 28$ .

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Fig. 1. – Neotype of *Potentilla cinerea* Vill. (designated by an arrow).

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