

Corrigenda

Selvaggi A. & Jiménez-Mejías P. 2025. Lectotypification of the names *Carex alpestris* All. and *C. nigra* Bellardi (Cyperaceae). *Anales del Jardín Botánico de Madrid* 82: e168. <https://doi.org/10.3989/ajbm.662>

This article has been modified to include a previously misspelled citation in the text (pag. 3) and its omission in References (pag. 5–6). Below is the reference in question:

Fornieris G., Pistarino A., Pandolfo G., Bovio M. 2011. Il “diario” del viaggio compiuto nel 1764 dalla Valle d’Aosta alla Savoia dai botanici Ludovico Bellardi e Francesco Peyrolery. *Revue Valdôtaine d’Histoire Naturelle* 65: 5–82.

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Short note

Lectotypification of the names *Carex alpestris* All. and *C. nigra* Bellardi (Cyperaceae)

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Abstract. We fix the application of the names *Carex alpestris* All. and *C. nigra* Bellardi (usually miscited as “*C. nigra* All.”) through their typification. We chose two specimens housed at TO, each of them collected by the respective nomenclatural author.

Keywords. *Carex*, Allioni, Bellardi, nomenclature, sedges, typification.

Resumen. Fijamos la aplicación de los nombres *Carex alpestris* All. y *C. nigra* Bellardi (que se suelen citar erróneamente como “*C. nigra* All.”) a través de sus tipificaciones. Elegimos dos ejemplares alojados en TO, cada uno de ellos recolectado por su autor nomenclatural correspondiente.

Palabras clave. *Carex*, Allioni, Bellardi, ciperáceas, nomenclatura, tipificación.

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Title in Spanish: Lectotipificación de los nombres *Carex alpestris* All. y *C. nigra* Bellardi (Cyperaceae).

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Carlo Allioni (1728–1804) was a prominent Italian botanist settled in Turin. He played a key role in advancing the knowledge of the Alpine flora and in applying binomial nomenclature to European plants. *Carex* L., with > 2000 accepted spp. (POWO 2025) is one of the five largest (non-apomictic) plant genera in the world. In Allioni's (1785) most important work, *Flora Pedemontana*, he accounted 57 species under the genus *Carex*, 24 of which were given a binomial name for the first time. Of these, eight names are still in use, while the other 16 have since been synonymized with other *Carex* species. A number of these synonymized names remain not formally typified, likely perceived as irrelevant due to the priority of other authors's binomials. However, since these are among the earliest binomial names within the genus, their taxonomic interpretation is not trivial. Changes in how the identity of these names are understood could lead to unexpected changes due to nomenclatural priority. Given that *Carex* taxonomy is constantly evolving, with new species being recognized, even in well-known regions like Europe, the resurrection of long-forgotten names is entirely possible (e.g., *C. agastachys* L.f.; Jiménez-Mejías & al. 2017; Míguez & al. 2018). In addition, some of Allioni's names serve as types for sections within the genus, an important rank in the taxonomy of *Carex*, as it helps organize its immense diversity into manageable sets of closely related species (see Roalson & al. 2021).

The names *Carex alpestris* All. (Allioni, 1785: 270) and *C. nigra* Bellardi (Allioni, 1785: 267) are still not typified. Taxonomic databases list them as synonyms of *C. halleriana* Asso and *C. parviflora* Host, respectively (e.g., POWO

2025; WFO 2025). Furthermore, *C. nigra* Bellardi is an illegitimate name due to homonymy with the earlier *C. nigra* (L.) Reichard.

Allioni's original herbarium is hosted at TO, the Herbarium of the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology of the University of Turin. Both names, *C. alpestris* and *C. nigra*, lack clear links to Allioni's specimens. When a specimen bore the number assigned to a taxon in *Flora Pedemontana*, it could be considered as the holotype for that name when no other specimens exist. However, the numbers associated with *C. alpestris* (2329) and *C. nigra* (2310) are not found in any of the specimen kept in his personal herbarium. Moreover, there is no explicit relation between these names and the drawings included in the Appendix of *Flora Pedemontana* or with the plates of *Iconographia Taurinensis*, a collection of about 8,000 watercolors with botanical subjects made between 1741 and 1868 and preserved at the Botanical Garden of the Turin University.

As the typification of Allioni's names is a complex task, given that his binomials and the original material are often subject to nomenclatural issues (Dal Vesco & al. 1987), we consider that a careful lectotypification is necessary in both cases, which are discussed below.

Carex alpestris All.

The name *Carex alpestris* All. (= *C. halleriana* Asso) was coined by Allioni to formalize a previously existing polynomial name by Haller in *Historia stirpium indigenarum Helvetiae* (Haller 1768: 193–194): “*Carex spica foeminina infima radicali, capsulis triquetris elongatis*. Hall. hist. n. 1385.” (Fig. 1). In Allioni's herbarium in TO, we found a specimen without locality data labelled “*Carex* Hall. hist. n. 1385” in Allioni's handwriting, along with a note from his collaborator, Ignazio Molineri, that reads “*Carex alpestris* All. flor. pedem.”. A revision label by Newmann in 1971 confirmed the identification as *C. halleriana*: “*Carex halleriana* Asso (= *C. alpestris* All.), rev. Newmann, 1971”, which we also verify. According to the evidence, this specimen matches Allioni's concept of the species and it can be considered original material of *Carex alpestris* All.

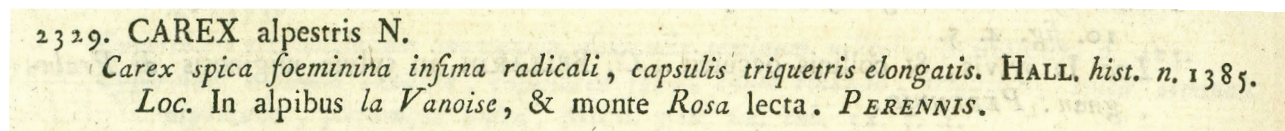


Fig. 1. Protologue of *Carex alpestris* All. as in *Flora Pedemontana*. [image courtesy of “Biblioteca del Real Jardín Botánico”, <https://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es>, ©RJB-CSIC].

However, identifying the localities indicated by Allioni in the description of *C. alpestris* (“In alpinis la Vanoise, & monte Rosa lecta”) and verifying their plausibility is challenging. The habitat of *Carex halleriana* does not correspond with the montane, alpine or subalpine belts of Monte Rosa. Bovio's (2014) inventories from Aosta Valley showed no occurrences of *C. halleriana* in the valleys of Monte Rosa, nor on Piedmont's side. While there are records from the Vanoise Massif (Biodiv' AURA Atlas 2025), they cannot be definitively linked to the places visited by Allioni or his collaborators. It is therefore possible that the specimen in Allioni's herbarium was not collected in the Vanoise or Monte Rosa regions, but rather from nearby areas, or originating from cultivation or exchanges.

Carex nigra Bellardi in All. (= “*C. nigra* All.”, *sphalm.*)

The name *Carex nigra* Bellardi (= *C. parviflora* Host) was published by Allioni in his *Flora Pedemontana* accompanied by a dagger symbol (†) (Fig. 2). As stated in the preface, this symbol indicates that the description is attributed to Carlo A.L. Bellardi (1741–1826), as other names in this flora were too (Perry & McNeill 1986). Allioni explained that when Bellardi reviewed the manuscript of *Flora Pedemontana*, he noticed missing species and provided locality data and descriptions. In return for his help, Allioni acknowledged him by marking these new species with a dagger. This suggests that the traditional citation of the name as *C. nigra* All. should be corrected as *C. nigra* Bellardi in All.

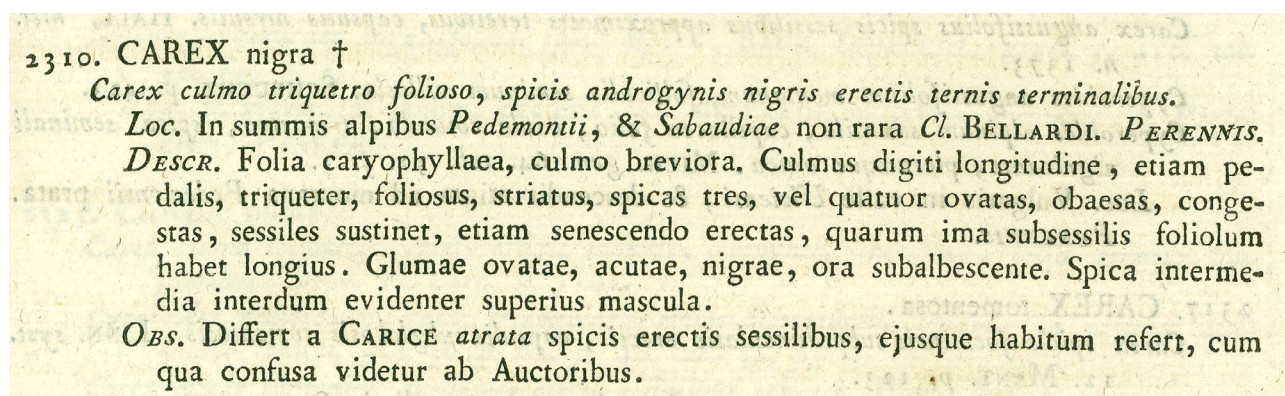


Fig. 2. Protologue of *Carex nigra* Bellardi (“*C. nigra* All.”) as in *Flora Pedemontana* [image courtesy of “Biblioteca del Real Jardín Botánico”, <https://bibdigital.rjb.csic.es>, ©RJB-CSIC].

Two herbarium sheets corresponding to this species are preserved in Allioni’s herbarium at TO. One sheet contains a single flowering stem, labeled “*Carex nigra* All. fl. Ped.”, in Allioni’s handwriting, with no further indications on the collector and locality. The second specimen contains several individuals, one of which is marked with a revision label by Newmann in 1971 that reads: “(b) *Carex parviflora* Host. (*C. nigra* Bell. non L.)”, but lacks any original inscription. Both vouchers include reassembled specimens (Caramiello & al. 2009). Newmann’s 1971 labels confirmed the identification of the fragment in the first specimen and of one of the several individuals in the second specimen, all those corroborating our own opinion.

Further search in Bellardi’s herbarium, also at TO, revealed a third specimen of *C. nigra* with two flowering stems. The sheet bears a handwritten note by Bellardi: “*Carex atrata nigra* Fl. Pedemontana // *Obs. Est varietas atrata spicis sessilibus. // In montibus elevatioribus di Viù et Ussey. Vidi quoque in alpibus Chamonix et in Monte S. Bernardi*”. The localities mentioned correspond to places visited by both Bellardi and the botanical painter Francesco Peyrolery during their botanical exploration of the Aosta Valley, Valais, and Savoy in 1764 (Forneris & al., 2011); note the wrong transcription of the name as *C. nigra* (L.) Reichard, instead of *C. nigra* All. or *C. nigra* Bellardi. The localities annotated on the sheet (“*Viù et Ussey*” [Viù e Usseglio in Lanzo Valley], “*Chamonix*”, and “*Monte S. Bernardi*” [St.-Bernard/San Bernardo]) match those provided in Allioni’s *Flora Pedemontana*: “In summis alpihus Pedemontii [Piedmont], & Sabaudiae [historical Savoy]”. Therefore, we designate the lectotype of *C. nigra* Bellardi on this latter specimen from Bellardi’s collection at TO.

Typifications

Carex alpestris All., Fl. Pedem. 2: 270 (1785). **Lectotype (designated here):** Italy/Switzerland: sine loco, s.d., Allioni s.n. (TO!). Fig. 3. = *Carex halleriana* Asso

Carex nigra Bellardi in All., Fl. Pedem. 2: 267 (1785), nom. illeg., non *Carex nigra* (L.) Reichard, Fl. Moeno-Francof. 2: 96 (1778). **Lectotype (designated here):** Italy. Piedmont: in montibus elevatioribus di Viù et Ussey. Vidi [illegible] Chamonix, et in monte S. Bernardi”, s.d., Bellardi s.n. (TO!). Fig. 4. = *Carex parviflora* Host

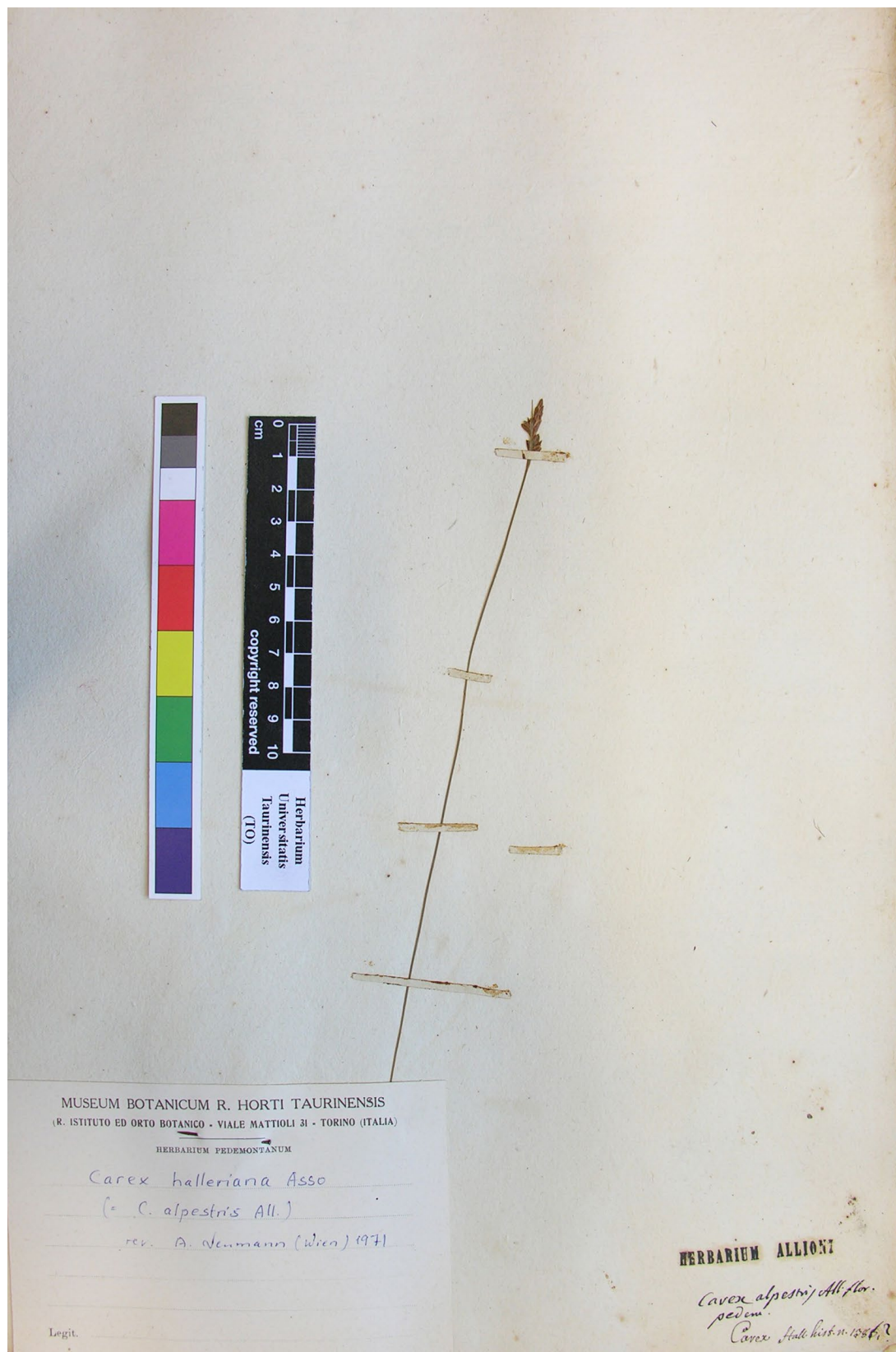


Fig. 3. Lectotype (newly designated) of *Carex alpestris* All. (Allioni's collection, TO). The flowering stem is recognizable as *C. halleriana* Asso.



Fig. 4. Lectotype (newly designated) of *Carex nigra* Bellardi (“*C. nigra* All.”) (Bellardi’s collection, TO): **a**, outer side of the sheet bearing Bellardi’s handwritten inscriptions; **b**, flowering stems recognizable as *C. parviflora* Host.

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AUTHORSHIP CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

Alberto SELVAGGI: Conceptualization, Investigation, Writing. Pedro JIMÉNEZ-MEJÍAS: Conceptualization, Investigation, Writing.

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