

## LOTUS X MINORICENSIS (FABACEAE), A NEW HYBRID FROM THE BALEARIC ISLANDS

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**SUMMARY:** *Lotus x minoricensis*, a new hybrid between *Lotus fulgurans* (Porta) Sokoloff [= *Dorycnium fulgurans* (Porta) Lasen] and *L. dorycnium* L. (= *Dorycnium pentaphyllum* Scop) is described from Minorca (Balearic Islands).

**RESUMEN:** Se describe un nuevo híbrido de Menorca (Islas Baleares), *Lotus x minoricensis*, procedente del cruce entre *Lotus fulgurans* (Porta) Sokoloff [= *Dorycnium fulgurans* (Porta) Lasen] y *L. dorycnium* L. (= *Dorycnium pentaphyllum* Scop).

*Lotus fulgurans* (Porta) D.D. Sokoloff [= *Dorycnium fulgurans* (Porta) Lasen], is an endemic shrub restricted to coastal places of eastern Balearic Islands (cf. ALOMAR & al., 1997) closely related to the Mediterranean *Lotus dorycnium* L. (= *Dorycnium pentaphyllum* Scop.), from which it mainly differs by the distinct pulvinular and spinescent habit, number and shape of leaflets, flower number, length of inflorescence stalks, deciduous bracts, etc. (LARSEN, 1979; CARDONA & al., 1983; MUS, 1992). The two species remain morphologically distinct throughout most of the Balearic archipelago. However, intermediate plants between *L. fulgurans* and *L. dorycnium* were reported by CARDONA & al. (1983) from two Minorcan populations where the two species grow together (Binidali and Na Macaret).

Recent molecular work has revealed that intermediate plants from Na Macaret

showed additive species-specific molecular markers (ribosomal nuclear ITS sequences) from both *L. fulgurans* and *L. dorycnium* (Conesa & al., unpublished data). This, together with morphological evidence (Table 1) is consistent with a hybrid origin of the intermediate plants from Na Macaret. However, neither diagnostic morphological characters nor molecular markers did support a hybrid origin for Binidali plants.

Accordingly, a new hybrid between *L. fulgurans* and *L. dorycnium*, currently restricted to Minorca, is here described (Figure 1).

**Lotus x minoricensis** Conesa, Mus & Rosselló, nothospec. nov.

[*Lotus fulgurans* x *L. dorycnium*]

**Diagnosis:** Planta perennis, media inter parentes. Differt a *L. fulgurans* caules haud spinosum, foliis 5, magnis, non

emarginatis, inflorescentia pedicellis longioribus et maior in floribus numerus. Foliis brevibus, inflorescentia pedicellis brevioris et minus flores *L. dorycnium* differt.

**Holotype:** BALEARIC ISLANDS, Minorca: Na Macaret, coastal scrub, 14-06-2004, Conesa, Fraga & Mus (VAB 179606).

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	<i>L. fulgurans</i>	<i>L. x minoricensis</i>	<i>L. dorycnium</i>
Habit	spinescent	not spinescent	not spinescent
N° of leaflets	3-4	5	5
Length of central leaflet	4-8 mm	4-9 mm	8-17 mm
Shape of leaflets	obovate-spathulate	elliptic	elliptic
Leaflet apex	deeply emarginated	not or slightly emarginated	not emarginated
Leaf stipules	deciduous	present and persistent	present and persistent
Inflorescence	axillary	± terminal	terminal
Length of the inflorescence stalk	< 2 mm	2-17 mm	9-54 mm
Number of flowers per inflorescence	1-3	2-12	8-16
Floral bracts	absent	present	present

Table 1



Figure 1. Habit of *Lotus dorycnium* (A), *L. fulgurans* (B), and *L. x minoricensis* (C). Images of *L. dorycnium* and *L. fulgurans* are reproduced from <http://herbarivirtual.uib.es/>.