

Acis orientalis: a new name for *Leucojum ionicum* (Amaryllidaceae)

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Abstract. *Acis ionica* Bareka, Kamari & Phitos (2006) is a heterotypic synonym of *Leucojum ionicum* Kit Tan, Mullaj, Sfikas & Strid (2004). When the latter is transferred to the genus *Acis*, consequently the name *ionicum* becomes unavailable. The species is renamed *Acis orientalis* Strid, nomen novum.

Key words: Albanian flora, Greek flora, Ionian Islands, new name, nomenclature

Leucojum autumnale L. is a species of small, autumn-flowering bulbous plants subsequently subdivided into *L. autumnale* s.str. in Portugal, Spain and Italy, and some other species elsewhere in the Mediterranean area. One of the latter is *L. valentinum* Pau, recorded from E Spain. Webb (1980: 77) reported *L. valentinum* from an area N of Valencia and from the Ionian Islands, Greece – a very unusual disjunction.

Leucojum valentinum from locus classicus, as well as plants from the Ionian island of Kefallinia identified as *L. valentinum*, were cultivated in the Göteborg Botanical Garden. A closer comparison led to the conclusion that the latter were quite different, which called for their description as a separate species, *L. ionicum* (Kit Tan, Mullaj, Sfikas & Strid, 2004).

Two years later, Bareka, Kamari & Phitos (2006) described some very similar plants as *Acis ionica*. The authors wrote: “Remarkably, Tan & al. (2004) have recently described a new taxon from the Ionian area, *Leucojum ionicum*, which superficially looks similar and has a very similar distribution, but differs very significantly by the presence of hollow (“fistulose”) scapes, which exclude the species from the genus *Acis*”.

Characters for *Leucojum ionicum* and *Acis ionica*, as given in the original publications, are summarized in Table 1. There are only two differences:

(1) The scape is said to be fistulose in *Leucojum ionicum* and solid in *Acis ionica*. The description of *Leucojum ionicum* was based on living material. In cross sections of fresh scapes, it is evident that there is a narrow but distinct central cavity. This is less obvious in the herbarium material.

(2) The length of the style was given as c. 9 mm in *Leucojum ionicum* and 5.5–8 mm in *Acis ionica*. However, the style lengthens in the course of anthesis, and therefore, the measures are approximate. Even if true, the difference would hardly be sufficient to separate species or genera.

It is obvious (and must have been obvious also to Bareka, Kamari & Phitos) that *Leucojum ionicum* and *Acis ionica* are conspecific. Historically, *Acis* has been regarded as a subgenus/section of *Leucojum*, or as a separate genus. A phylogenetic analysis by Lledó & al. (2004) supports the latter option.

Since *Acis ionica* Bareka, Kamari & Phitos (2006) is a heterotypic synonym of *Leucojum ionicum* Kit Tan, Mullaj, Sfikas & Strid (2004), the name *ionicum* becomes unavailable when the latter is transferred to the genus *Acis* (Article 53.1 in the International Code for Botanical Nomenclature). Therefore, it is renamed *Acis orientalis* Strid, nomen novum (type, description, etc., see Kit Tan & al. 2004).

Table 1. Characters of *Leucojum ionicum* and *Acis ionica* (as given in the original descriptions).

	<i>Leucojum ionicum</i>	<i>Acis ionica</i>
Bulb	Ovoid, 2.5-3 × 1.5-2.5 cm	Ovoid, 15-25 mm in diam.
Bulb tunics	The outer blackish-brown, the inner pale brown	Brown
Scape	10-30(-40) cm, slender, erect, fistulous, slightly sulcate	8-20(-25) cm, slender, erect, solid, slightly sulcate
Leaves	2-3, developing after anthesis, (5-)10-20(-24) cm × 1-2.5(-3) mm, flat or slightly canaliculate	2-3(-5), appearing after anthesis, 12-22 cm × 2-3 mm, narrowly linear to filiform
Spathes	2, subequal to unequal, 17-25 × c. 2 mm, scarious or slightly green on keel	2, unequal, 17-28(-32) × 1-1.5 mm, membranous
Flowers	(1-)3-5(-7), pendent, in a terminal, more or less unilateral umbel	(1-)2-4(-6), pendent, in a terminal, unilateral umbel
Pedicels	Slender, 15-25 mm at anthesis	Filiform, (10-)16-28(-35) mm at anthesis
Perianth	Flared-campanulate	Conically campanulate
Perianth segments	In 2 subequal whorls, 12-15 × 5-8 mm, white, the outer apiculate	In 2 subequal whorls, (8-)9-13(-15) mm, white, the outer mucronate
Filaments	Filiform, 1.5-2 mm, white	Filiform, 1.5-3 mm, white
Anthers	Linear-oblong, 4-5 × c. 0.8 mm, obtuse, bright yellow	Oblong, 4-5 mm, bright yellow
Style	Straight, filiform, c. 9 mm, much exceeding stamens, white	Filiform, 5.5-8 mm long
Capsule	Ovoid-globose, 8-10 mm in diam., subfleshy	Not mentioned
Seeds	Ovoid, 2.5-3 mm, black, with strophiole	2.5-3 mm, black, with strophiole
Chromosome number	2n=16	2n=16
Flowering time	September-November	September-October
Habitat	Open ledges and rock crevices near the coast, limestone	Open, calcareous, rocky places, often facing the sea
Altitude	0-330 m	3-350(-450) m
Distribution	Ionian Islands from Zakynthos to Lefkas, locally in W Sterea Ellas (Etolias-Akarnanias), SW Albania near Vlore	Ionian Islands from Zakynthos to Lefkas, locally in W Sterea Ellas (Etolias-Akarnanias), SW Albania near Vlore

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