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5. TWO ASPLENIUM TAXA NEW TO AFRICA

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MAIRE (1952) recognised 11 species of *Asplenium* L. as occurring in N. Africa, to which QUÉZEL (1959) added a twelfth. Re-evaluation of generic concepts within the Aspleniaceae since, has resulted in the amalgamation of the genera *Pleurosorus* Fée and *Phyllitis* Hill within *Asplenium* in recent floristic treatments (e.g. GREUTER & al., 1984, VIANE & al. 1993), increasing the tally to 15. All of these taxa occur in Europe.

The biosystematics of this group have, since the time of Maire's flora, been the subject of considerable investigation. The extensive cytological studies of Lovis (e.g. LOVIS, 1977) and Sleep (e.g. SLEEP, 1983) and more recently molecular work (VOGEL, unpubl.) have revealed complex reticulate patterns of evolution, with many 'cryptic' species, genomically, ecologically but not obviously morphologically distinct. The *Asplenium trichomanes* complex provides a particularly fine example. MAIRE (1952) recognised two infrappecific taxa, var. *genuinum* Willk. and var. *anceps* Soland. ex Lowe. The latter has long been recognised as a separate species, *A. anceps* Lowe ex Hook. & Grev., which all recent accounts (e.g. VIANE & al., 1993) give as a Macaronesian endemic. Confirmation of its presence in the Atlas mountains is clearly desirable. The former is synonymous with subsp. *quadri-valens* D.E. Meyer *emend.* Lovis, the most widespread and common of at least 8 subspecific taxa in Europe and Macaronesia (VOGEL, unpubl.). Given the diversity of taxa in this complex in Southern Spain, an area with obvious floristic links, e.g. the rare disjunct