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***Apocynaceae: Cionura* (ed. 1)**

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APOCYNACEAE

in part

Katerina Goula¹

Cionura Griseb.

Spic. Fl. Rumel. 2: 69. 1844. Type: *Cionura erecta* (L.) Griseb. Monotypic.

Description: Suffruticose, glabrous plants, with latex, trailing or climbing shoots and often twining shoot apices. Leaves opposite, with long petiole and cordate base, blades with a cluster of colleters at base of midrib adaxially. Flowers in erect, terminal or axillary, many-flowered cymes. Calyx with colleters within. Corolla rotate, lobes obtuse, overlapping to right in bud, *patent at anthesis*. Stamens fused to style head. *Staminal corona with 5 free segments without awns*. Anthers laterally with lignified guide rails. *Anther connective appendages oblong, twice as long as anthers*. Pollen united into pollinia attached to a clip-like translator; *pollinia erect*. Nectaries 5 alternistaminal troughs behind guide rails. Ovary of 2 carpels, free at base, apices coalesced into enlarged style head; ovules numerous. *Follicles normally solitary, narrowly ovoid, acuminate, smooth*. Seeds comose.

Literature: Grisebach (1844), Markgraf (1972), Browicz (1978), Strid (2016a, 2016b), Liede-Schumann & al. (2022).

1. *Cionura erecta* (L.) Griseb.

Spic. Fl. Rumel. 2: 69. 1844. Basionym: *Cynanchum erectum* L. Homotypic synonym: *Marsdenia erecta* (L.) R. Br. Lectotype (designated by Browicz 1967: 9, 10): Herb. Linn. No. 308.12 (LINN!).

Description: Perennial herb or subshrub, with numerous stems, to 100 cm tall, often sprawling and forming large mats, white puberulent when young, glabrous later. Leaves opposite, long-petiolate, green and ± glaucous, foetid; lamina c. 7 × 5 cm, ovate to broadly ovate, usually cordate at base, acute or acuminate at apex; petiole to 5 cm long. Inflorescence an axillary or terminal cyme with numerous flowers; peduncle subequal to petiole. Calyx small. Corolla rotate, white to cream, rarely yellow, glabrous, c. 1 cm in diam.; corolla lobes oblong, obtuse, patent at anthesis, slightly overlapping to right in bud. Corona segments free, erect, triangular, membranous, reaching height of anthers and opposite to them. Gynostegium exposed at base of corolla. Follicles c. 8 × 1.5 cm, glabrous, narrowly ovoid, acuminate, usually solitary by abortion, rarely both carpels developing. Seeds ovate-oblong, with a marginal wing; coma long, silky, white.

Distribution: An E Mediterranean element, with a distribution in the Balkan Peninsula and SW Asia, reaching SW Iran in the east. All floristic regions except NPi (Dimopoulos & al. 2013).

Karyology: $2n = 22$ (Albers & Meve 2001).

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Status	Conservation status		Legal status	
N	—		—	
Life form	Functional trait	Chorology	Distribution in Greece	
P C	*	EM	All except NPi	—
Habitat	Geology	Altitude	Flowering	Fruiting
M R	**	0–600(–950) m	V–VII	—

* Pollination by insects (insect generalist: bees, flies, moths or butterflies, Ollerton & al. 2019).
Seed dispersal by wind.

** Grows on various substrates.

General comments: Used in traditional medicine. Cytotoxic activities due to containing safranal (Myrianthopoulos & al. 2007). Larvicidal and insect-repellent properties, pesticide (Mozaffari & al. 2014).

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