New Veronica (Scrophulariaceae) Records for the Flora of Iran

Shahryar SAEIDI-MEHRAVARZ
Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Guilan, Rasht - IRAN

Mustafa ASSADI
Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, Tehran - IRAN

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Abstract: Two species of Veronica L., i.e. V. kopetdaghensis B.Fedtsch. ex Boriss. and V. filiformis Sm., are illustrated and recorded as new records for the flora of Iran.

Key Words: New records, Veronica, Iran

Introduction

Veronica is one of the most polymorphic genera within the Scrophulariaceae. The genus comprises annual or perennial herbs, with opposite leaves and solitary flowers or flowers arranged in racemes. The corolla consists of four unequal lobes in this genus and is weakly zygomorphic.

Fischer (1981) introduced the genus Veronica in “Flora Iranica” with 56 species and arranged these species in five sections. The total number of species known from Iran has now increased to 59. Recently, V. davisii has been recorded from NW Iran (Saeidi et al., 2001). The present study is mainly based on wide collections throughout Iran and comparing these materials with type collections and other authentic materials. The materials recorded here are deposited in TUH and TARI (according to Holmgren et al., 1990). Fig. 1 presents the distribution map of these species in Iran.
Results

1. Veronica kopetdaghensis B.Fedtsch. ex Boriss., (Fig. 2).

Material examined: Province Khorassan, Shirvan town, Namanlou village, North of Golule-Sarany protected region, 37° 46' N—58° 05' E, 16 vii 2000, 2600 m, leg. Saeidi & Asaadi 24232 (TUH!).

A very interesting new record for the flora of Iran. This species is endemic to the Kopetdagh mountain range. The holotype of the type specimen is deposited in LE and was closely examined by the first author of this paper. The our new collection fits the type specimen in all respects.

This species was found beside rocky cliffs among the vegetation Euphorbia chierandenia Boiss.& Hohen.,

Fig. 2. V. kopetdaghensis.-A: Habit, -B: Leaf, -C: Flower, -D: Fruit.
Fig. 3. *V. filiformis*. -A: Habit, -B: Leaf, -C: Flower, -D: Fruit.
Acantholimon bromifolium Boiss. and Cousinia multiloba DC.. The most characteristic feature of this species is the presence of terminal inflorescence and its caespitose vegetation form. Moreover, this species is characterised by possessing runners and triangular-ovate leaves. The capsule and seed features have not so far been described for this species. The capsule is 2.5-3 x 3-3.2 mm and covered with glandular hairs. The style is 2.5-4 mm long. Seeds number 4-6 per capsule and are 0.8-1 x 0.5-0.7 mm in size, obovate to elliptic, flat, brownish. The flowering and fruiting-time of this species is June-July.

2. V. filiformis Sm.. (Fig. 3).

Material examined: Province Azarbaidjan, Ardabil town, Razi district, Alikaran village, 38° 40'N—48°15'E, 24 vi 2000, 1700 m, leg. Saeidi & Asaadi 24220 (TUH!).

This species has its origin in the Pontic-Caucasian-Armenian mountains, although today it has been naturalised in many parts of Europe and N America (Norbert & Sukopp, 1993). V. filiformis has been reported from N & NE Turkey (Fischer, 1978) and the Caucasus (Fischer, 1981).

This species grows in humid regions dominated by Trifolium pratense L., Taraxacum officinale L., Dactylis glomerata L. and Salvia hydrangea DC. ex Benth.

V. filiformis differs from its closest relatives, i.e. V. persica Poir. and V. polita Fries., by having slightly orbicular leaves with cordate base, seeds numbering 6-8 per capsule (against 10-30 in V. polita and 10-18 in V. persica) and being brownish-yellow (against yellowish in both other species). Moreover, the surface of the seed-coat in V. filiformis (Fig. 4) is cristate-papillate, similar to the seed-coats of V. persica and V. polita.

The flowering and fruiting-time of this species is May-June.

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References


