A New Genus (*Mericarpaea* Boiss.) Record From Turkey

Zeki AYTAŞ, Nezaket ADIGÜZEL
Gazi Üniversitesi, Fen-Edebiyat Fakültesi, Biyoloji Bölümü, 06500 Teknikokullar Ankara-TURKEY

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**Abstract:** *Mericarpaea ciliata* (Banks & Sol.) Eig (*Rubiaceae*) is recorded from Turkey for the first time. It is also a new genus record (*Mericarpaea* Boiss.) for Turkey.

**Key Words:** New genus, Record, Flora, Turkey.

The family *Rubiaceae* is represented by ten genera in Turkey (1). These are *Oldenlandia* L., *Putoria* Pers, *Sherardia* L., *Crucianella* L., *Asperula* L., *Galium* L., *Callipeltis* Steven, *Cruciata* Miller, *Valantia* L. and *Rubia* L. There is a short note about the genus *Mericarpaea* in the Flora of Turkey. According to the Flora of Turkey the *Mericarpaca ciliata* was collected for the first time by Mouterde from south-east Anatolia (2). But the specimens have not been seen by the author who wrote *Mericarpaea* account in the Flora of Turkey, so he was doubtful, if it grows in Turkey. According to the Flora of Iraq, (3) the plant might occur in Iraq, but occurrence is unknown and no collection is seen either. It is only known from Aucher-Eloy’s specimen (Aucher-Eloy 670) from Mesopotamia (4).

The specimens were collected from the Ceylanpinar district of the province of Şanlıurfa near the Syrian border during the “In-situ Conservation of Genetic Biodiversity of Turkey (GEF Grand 28632)” project supported by the World Bank. *Mericarpaea ciliata* is described and illustrated again because there is not enough information about it.

*Mericarpaea ciliata* (Bank & Sol.) Eig in Journ. Bot. 75: 190 (1937). Fig. and map.

Caespitose, annual, 4-8 cm, branched from the base, with prostrate to ascending, quadrangular, retrorsely scabrid stems. Leaves in whorls of up to 6, narrowly oblanceolate 4-7 x 0.8-1 mm, rather obtuse, antrorsely denticulate-scabrous on the revolute margins and the midrib. Cymes axillary, nearly sessile, 1-3-flowered; central pedicel absent, lateral 1-1.7 mm. Calyx limb obsolete. Corolla rotate, yellow, 1-1.5 mm in diameter, with oblong, acute lobes. Style 2-lobed, stigma capitate. Mericarps 2, oblong, 3-4 mm, with 5-7-toothed crests; teeth triangular at base, prickly-hooked at apex.

Fl. March-April. On calcareous rocky places.

Location: C7 Şanlıurfa; Ceylanpinar, around Hırvatus, stony ground 430-450 m, 11. iv. 1995, Z. Aytaç & N. Adıgüzel (1874).

Distribution: Turkey, Palestine, Syria and Iraq. Irano-Turanian elements.

The specimens are deposited at GAZI, ANK HUB and Yıldırımlı herbaria.

Recommended IUCN Threat Category is Vulnerable (VU), because it has a very poor population in the area.

*Mericarpaea* is a monotypic genus. It is similar to annual species of *Galium*, but the fruit has ciliate mericarps. On the other hand the fruit is also similar to *Umbelliferae*, but the leaves are verticillate and the cymes are 1-3-flowered, not umbellate.

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References


