

Araujia Brot.: A New Genus (Asclepiadaceae) Record for Turkey

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Abstract: *Araujia cericifera* Brot. (*Asclepiadaceae*), a S. American native, is a new record for the flora of Turkey. The specimens were collected from Ordu. A description and illustration are given.

Key Words: *Araujia*, *Asclepiadaceae*, Turkey, new record.

Araujia Brot. : Türkiye İçin Yeni Bir Cins (*Asclepiadaceae*) Kaydı

Özet: *Araujia cericifera* Brot. Ordu'dan toplanmış ve Türkiye florası için yeni bir cins olduğu belirlenmiştir. Türün betimi ve çizimi verilmiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Araujia*, *Asclepiadaceae*, Türkiye, yeni kayıt.

Introduction

Araujia Brot. two to three species of this plant grow in S. America (Krüssmann, 1986). One species, *A. cericifera* Brot., is cultivated for ornament and is locally naturalized in S.W. Europe (Azores, France, Spain and Portugal). The record from Italy is not clearly determined (Greuter, 1984).

An unknown specimen was collected in the Ordu region, in *Rubus* L. scrub, and eventually identified as *Araujia cericifera* Brot. (Malme, 1909, Markgraf, 1972, Krüssmann, 1986 and Foulis L. et al., 1999). The description of the species is based on Krüssmann (1986) and our specimen.

Araujia cericifera Brot., in Trans. Linn. Soc. London 12: 69, t. 4-5. (1818). (Figure 1).

Evergreen, high twining shrub, 5 m or more, young twigs finely soft pubescent. Leaves opposite, ovate-oblong, acute, base broadly cuneate to truncate, 5-10 x 2-5 cm, light green, short tomentose beneath; petiole 1-3 cm. Inflorescence in 2-10-flowered cymes, opposite the leaves. Sepals 5, fused near base, green, erect, leaf-like. Petals fused, five-lobed, bell- to funnel-shaped, white, swollen at base, 1.5 x 0.8 cm, limb with five flared

points. Fruit a narrowly ovoid, pendant, 8-15 x 4-5 cm, pod, widest at base, tapering towards tip, with several deep longitudinal furrows. Seeds 2-2.5 x 5-6 mm, with an apical 2.5 cm long fascicle of silky hairs.

Flowering; May?, Fruiting; October.

Turkey: A6 Ordu: Melet stream, Bayadı village, Kayadibi district, 120 m, 3 X 2001. H. Altınözlü 3715, (HUB).

Discussion

The locality of the specimen was a natural *Rubus* scrub, and many specimens were observed in the same area. It is the first record from the area and we have no record of the plant being cultivated nearby. The specimens have mature seeds and seem to be well-established. We conclude that the species reproduces naturally in the area.

We could be not certain how the species was introduced to Turkey.

The family *Asclepiadaceae* is represented in Turkey by six genera: *Periploca* L., *Cyprinia* Browicz, *Gomphocarpus* R.Br., *Cynanchum* L., *Vincetoxicum* N.H. Wolf and

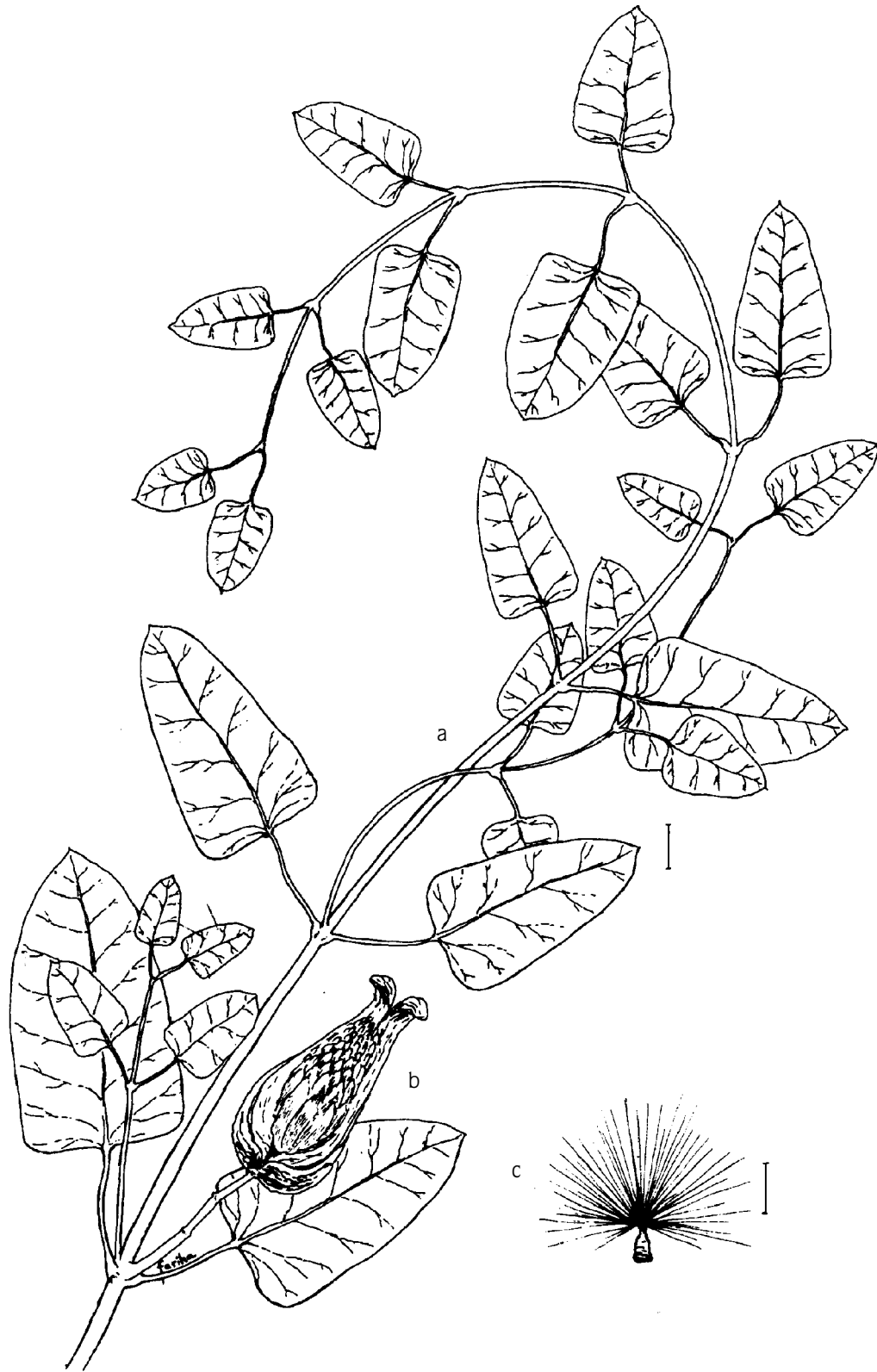


Figure 1. *Araujia cericifera* a: habit, b: fruit, c: seed (scales = 1 cm).

Cionura Griseb. (Browicz, 1978). The seventh genus *Araujia* is distinguished from them by its larger flowers.

1. Segments of corona elongate, awned
 2. Flowers purple-violet; segments of corona undivided; follicles slightly connate at apex
 1. **Periploca**
 2. Flowers white; segments of corona bifid; follicles free, arranged horizontally or at acute angle
 3. **Cyprina**
1. Segments of corona short, awnless
 3. Follicles bristly; leaves linear-lanceolate
 4. **Gomphocarpus**
 3. Follicles smooth; leaves ovate to lanceolate, base cordate or not
 4. Corona double, with 10 segments
 5. **Cynanchum**
 4. Corona single, with 5 segments
 5. Corolla 15-20 mm in diameter
 2. **Araujia**
 5. Corolla up to 12 mm in diameter
 6. Perennial herb; corolla-lobes ovate or oblong; corona-segments connate
 6. **Vincetoxicum**

6. Suffruticose plants or shrubs; corolla-lobes linear; corona-segments free
 7. **Cionura**

Araujia is described as a monotypic genus from Peru by Brotero (1817) without type indication. In addition, the description of *A. cericifera* was illustrated with two plates, t. 4 showing a flowering branch and t. 5 giving floral dissections and fruits. The attempt by Forster and Bruyns to find type material of *A. cericifera* as described by Brotero failed and the nomenclatural status of this putative specimen remains unresolved. Brotero's t. 4 is selected as the lectotype for *A. cericifera* Brot. by Forster and Bruyns (1992).

Although the specific epithet in most previous references is given as "*cericifera*" (Malme 1909; Markgraf 1972; Krüssman 1986), Brotero's original description and the legend to its illustration gives "*cericofera*". Forster and Bruyns's study on the nomenclature and typification of the *A. cericifera* also reveals that the epithet "*cericofera*" is an orthographic error (Forster & Bruyns, 1992).

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