

1-1-2007

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Recommended Citation

İLÇİM, AHMET and BEHÇET, LÜTFİ (2007) "Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav. in Turkey," *Turkish Journal of Botany*. Vol. 31: No. 6, Article 10. Available at: <https://journals.tubitak.gov.tr/botany/vol31/iss6/10>

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Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav. in Turkey

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Received: 05.02.2007

Accepted: 16.07.2007

Abstract: *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, a native of South America, previously recorded from the island of Lesvos, is here recorded from Turkey, Kahramanmaraş-Türkoğlu C6.

Key Words: *Solanum elaeagnifolium* Solanaceae, Turkey, new record

Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav.'un Türkiye'de Varlığı

Özet: Doğal olarak Güney Amerika'da yayılış gösteren *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, daha önce Lesvos adasından kaydedilmiştir. Kahramanmaraş-Türkoğlu C6 kaydı ile türün Türkiye'de de varlığı ortaya konmuştur.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, Solanaceae, Türkiye, yeni kayıt

Introduction

Solanum L., with approximately 1400 species, is the largest and most diverse genus in the *Solanaceae*. It consists of 7 subgenera (D'Arcy, 1972). The subgenus *Leptostemonum* (Dunal) Bitter comprises almost one-third of the genus, with ca. 450 cosmopolitan species. Members of this group are defined by their sharp prickles, namely the spiny solanums. (Chiarini, 2004; Levin et al., 2005).

During floristic investigations, the first author collected some interesting *Solanum* specimens from Gavurgölü marsh (Kahramanmaraş, Turkey). Among them was a specimen that could not be identified using the account in the *Flora of Turkey* (Baytop, 1978; Byfield, 2000; Özhatay & Kültür, 2006). Eventually, using the generic account in the *Flora Iranica* (Schönbeck, 1972), and *Flora Europaea* (Hawkes & Edmonds 1972), the specimens were identified as *Solanum elaeagnifolium* Cav. (Figure 1). It was previously recorded from the island of Lesvos (Baytop, 1978).

Solanum elaeagnifolium Cav. Icon. Descr. 3:22, tab. 243 (1795). Icon.: Wild flowers Unit. St. 3,2: tab. 96 (1969); Flora Pakistan, ed. Y. Nasir, 168 Solanaceae; fig.2. G (1985) (Figure 1).

Type: "Cult. in horto bot. Matrit. ex America" MA.

Perennial herb or dwarf shrub with dense, whitish, stellate indumentum, usually with scattered, inconspicuous, usually reddish prickles on stem, mature leaves and calyx; stem 30-50 cm or more, erect, sparingly branched. Leaves 4-10 (-16) x 1-2.5 (-4) cm, linear to oblong lanceolate, obtuse, acute, rounded or truncate base, entire to shallowly sinuate; petiole 5-20 mm. Cyme 1- to 5-flowered, solitary, extra-axillary; peduncle 5-20 mm. Calyx 5-7 mm, slightly accrescent, patent in fruit; lobes 2-4 mm, linear. Corolla 25-35 (-40) mm in diameter, orbicular, purplish. Anthers 7-9 mm, yellow. Berry 10-13 mm in diameter, globose, dry, yellow. Fl. 9-10.

[Turkey], C6 Kahramanmaraş. Türkoğlu, around Fatih small town, Gavurgölü Marsh, 450-500 m, 10 vii 2006, A. İLÇİM 1632. (KSUH and VANF).

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Figure. General view of *S. elaeagnifolium* from a branch of herbarium material.

Distribution and ecology

S. elaeagnifolium is a South American native that sometimes occurs as an alien in parts of South Europe and is naturalised in parts of Greece. It invades cultivated fields (maize, sorghum, and vegetables), disturbed habitats (roadsides) and some semi-natural habitats (pastures). Widely distributed in North Africa (Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia) and South Europe (France (including Corsica), Greece, Italy, and Spain), and other temperate countries (Eppo/Fao 2006), it is also known from Syria, Iran, Pakistan, and Australia.

Gavurgözü Marsh is an important area for immigrant birds and it could be the reason for its occurrence here.

Acknowledgement

The authors would like to thank Associate Prof. Dr. Cemil KARA (Turkish Ichthyologist at KSU Science and Art Faculty Department of Biology) for providing *Solanum* specimens.

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