A NEW RECORD AND A KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS OXALIS (OXALIDACEAE) IN IRAN

M. Khodashenas & T. Amini

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Oxalis is the only genus of Oxalidaceae in Iran. Rechinger in Flora Iranica has mentioned Oxalis corniculata L. from Iran. Afterwards two other species were reported from Iran (O. articulata and O. corymbosa). Oxalis latifolia is reported here as a new record for the flora of the Iran. A new identification key of the species of the genus is presented here.

Mansoureh Khodashenas, Organization of Agricultural and Natural Resources Centre, Kerman, Iran.- Tayebeh Amini, Herbarium of Nowshahr Botanical Garden, Agriculture and Natural Resources Centre of Mazandaran.

Key words. Oxalis, Oxalidaceae, New record, identification key, Iran.

INTRODUCTION

Genus Oxalis L., belongs to the family Oxalidaceae, a family of including six genera and about 775 species, occurring mainly in the tropical but also in temperate regions of both the New and Old World. Oxalis is a cosmopolitan genus of perhaps 500 species distributed mostly in Africa and South America (Shixiao et al. 2006). It is the largest and most widespread genus in the family. Many of the Oxalis species are invasive garden and greenhouse weeds. It comprises annual or perennial herbs and has two center of diversity: South America to the Southern part of North America and South Africa. The habitats of Oxalis species are in wetlands, moist disturbed places, waste places, along watercourses, roadsides of disturbed places or is often found along the roads, in gardens or in pots.

According to Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1967) only one species occur in Iran (O. corniculata L.), Ghahremaninejad & Gholamian (2006) and Naqinezhad & Sharifi (2007) reported O. articulata and O. corymbosa respectively from North of Iran as new records. The first author has been preparing the draft of Flora of Iran. During the studies of Herbarium specimens of Mazandaran, Nowshahr, Botanial
Fig. 1. *Oxalis latifolia* (*×*0.55).
garden, sea level, Amini 10700; Chalus, Namak Abrood, Amini & Zare 10705; Babolsar to Mahmood Abad, Darya Kenar, Amini & Zare 10406.

Plant perennial, stemless, glabrous, bulbiferous. Bulbs scaly, solitary and emitted from the up to 8 cm long rhizomes. Petioles glabrous or very sparsely pubescent, 10 to 26 cm long; leaflets obverse-deltoid, glabrous, 2.5-4 cm long, 4 to 6 cm wide, apex emarginated. Peduncle to 28 cm tall, usually exceeding the petiolar length. Inflorescence umbellate. Flowers pinkish-purple or purple-violet. Sepals oblong-lanceolate, 3.5 to 6 mm long, with two small orange glands at apex. Petals 10 to 15 mm long. Stamens 10, in two series of 5 with different length; filaments strigose; shorter filament exceeding the styles. Ovary 5 locular; styles 5, free stigmas small and capitulate. Fruit not seen.

*Oxalis latifolia* is reported here as a new record and forth species from North Iran. It is close to *O. corymbosa*, but differs from it by having scaly, single and numerous bulbs (not clustered sheathed bulbs), obverse-deltoid leaves (not obcordate), short, stigose filaments and exceeding stigmas.

*Oxalis latifolia* is a South American bulbous weed. It has been distributed throughout the tropical, Mediterranean and temperate climates. The nearest countries to Iran where this species is found are Pakistan, India and Europe. Its reproduction is mainly vegetatively but sometimes seeds are produced too. In Iran, the species seems to be naturalized in low lands along the southern shores of Caspian Sea. *Oxalis latifolia* has a vegetative reproductive system including bulblets. The bulblets well dispersed and can remain alive in the soil for years (Esler 1962).

**Key to the species in Iran**

1- Aerial stem present. Bulbs absent. Petals yellow

- Aerial stem absent. Petals violet or pink

1. *O. corniculata*  
2- Stem rhizomatous. Rhizomes woody and swollen. Bulbs absent  

2. *O. articulata*  
-Stern not rhizomatous. Bulbs present  

3- Leaflets obcordate, punctuate beneath the margin. Pedicel hairy. Long filaments strigose  

3. *O. corymbosa*  
-Leaflets triangular, not punctuate. Both long and short filaments strigose  

4. *O. latifolia*  

**REFERENCES**


