

# HIEROCHLOE ODORATA (POACEAE), A NEW REPORT FROM IRAN

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Recently, after studying a collected specimen from Tonekabon, it was determined as *Hierochloa odorata*. This is the first report of the genus from Iran. Morphological characters, habitat, geographical distribution in the world and Iran is presented.

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**Key words.** *Hierochloa odorata*, Gramineae, Iran.

گونه *Hierochloe odorata*، گزارش جنس جدید از تیره Poaceae برای ایران

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در بررسی نمونه‌ای جمع‌آوری شده از تنکابن، نمونه مذکور تحت *Hierochloa odorata* تعیین نام گردید که به عنوان اولین گزارش

جنس برای ایران تلقی می‌گردد. شرح مورفولوژیکی، زیستگاه و پراکنش جغرافیایی گونه مذکور در ایران و دنیا ارایه شده است.

## Introduction

Poaceae family is the fifth largest plant family and the second largest monocotyledons in the world. Only the *Orchidaceae*, *Asteraceae*, *Fabaceae*, and *Rubiaceae* have more numerous species than *Poaceae*. The family is the largest monocotyledons in Iran. In review of a collected specimen from Tonekabon, it was identified by using of Flora Iranica (Bor 1970) and Flora of Turkey (Doğan 1985) under the name *Hierochloe odorata* which is presented as the first report of the genus from Iran. *Hierochloe* belongs to *Aveneae* tribe and is a genus of grasses known generally as sweetgrass. These are perennial rhizomatous grasses found in temperate regions in the northern hemisphere.

*Hierochloe odorata* (L.) P. Beauv., Ess. Agrostogr., Atlas: t. 12, f. 5 (1812).

Syn.: *Holcus odoratus* L., Sp. Pl.: 1048 (1753).

*Examined specimen.* Mazandaran: Ramsar, Javaherdeh, Samamous mt., 2800 m, 05.05.2010, Ghasem Nezhad (55153-IRAN).

Perennial plant, with slender creeping rhizomes. Stem erect, 10-12 cm high, thin, smooth or scabrous below inflorescence. Leaves basal, 10-12 cm long; sheaths glabrous; ligule 1-2 mm long; blades linear acuminate, 2-4 cm long and 4-5 mm wide, glabrous or slightly hairy, scabrous margins. Inflorescence a small panicle, 4-7 × 1.5-3.5 cm, pyramid-shaped; branches 1-2 cm long, patent, with spikelets in the upper half. Spikelets widely ellipsoid, 3.5-4.5 mm long, three florets (two lower florets male or sterile), greenish or purple-green; glumes persistent, almost equal, 4 mm long, widely ellipsoid or acutely ovoid, with 1-3 nerves. Lower floret sterile or male; lemma 3.5-4 mm long, margins ciliate. Upper floret hermaphrodite; lemma ca. 3 mm long, with 3-5 nerves, with adpressed hair towards apex. Anthers 2-2.5 mm. (Fig. 1)

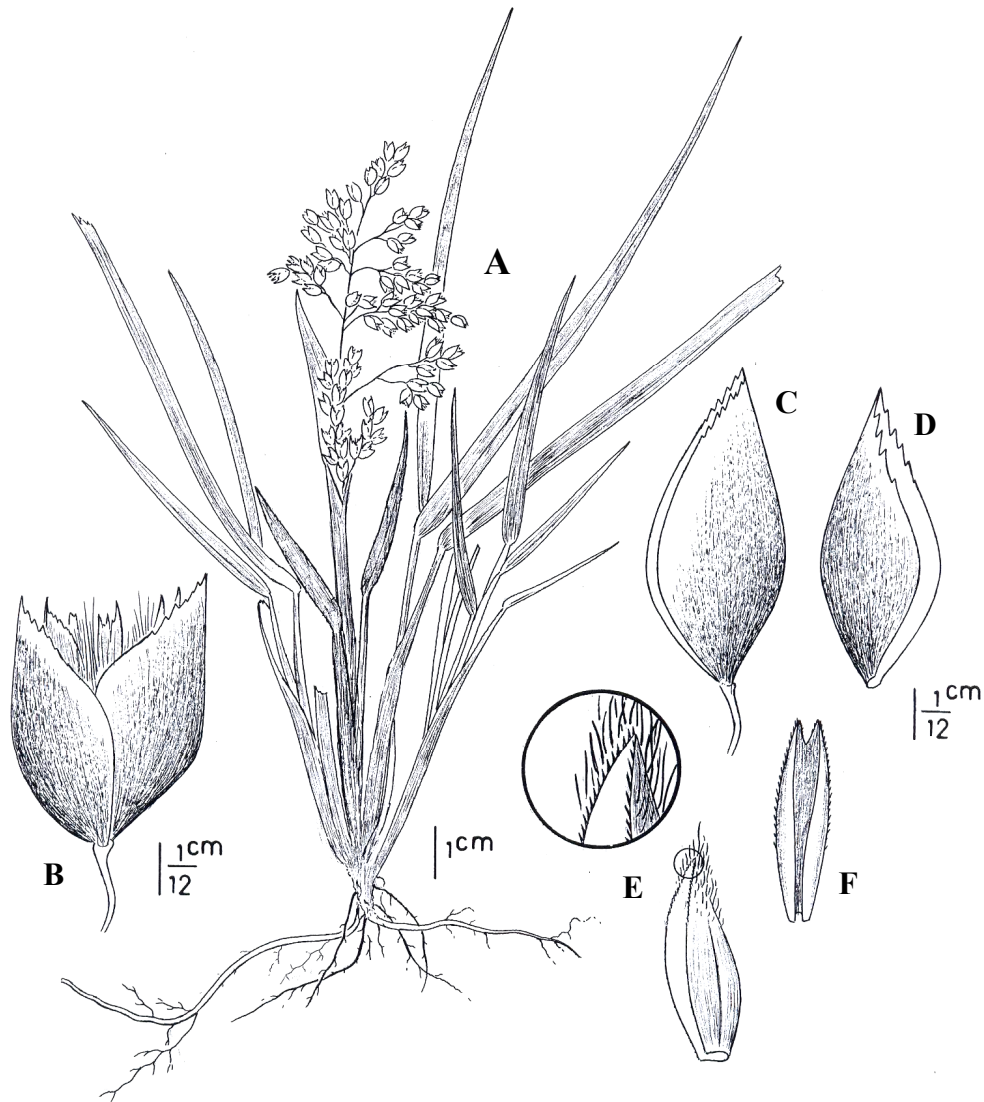


Fig. 1. *Hierochloa odorata*: A. habit, B. spikelet, C. lower glume, D. upper glume, E. lemma of upper floret, F. palea of upper floret.

*Habitat.* margins of swamps, stream margins, wet grassy places.

Tzvelev (1976) refers to the presence of three subspecies (subsp. *odorata*, subsp. *baltica* Weim. and subsp. *arctica* Tzvel.) in the USSR. Subspecies *baltica* is found in European part of USSR and Europe while the other two subspecies have wide distribution, so both subspecies are found in Caucasus, W. & E. Siberia, Central Asia and N. America except Europe. He has been pointed that it is not always clearly distinguishable between the two subspecies of *odorata* and *arctica*. Therefore, in this report, we do not try to

determine subspecies level, but it seems that the specimen is closer to subspecies *odorata*.

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