A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS LATHYRUS (PAPILIONACEAE) FROM IRAN

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A new species of Lathyrus L. is described from Alamut, Kuhe Siahlan in Ghazvin province. The new species is named Lathyrus alamutensis which is a perennial plant with woody rootstock, many stems and pale red to purple flowers in living state and whitish in dried state. It belongs to Lathyrus sect. Platystylis (Sweet) Bassler. The new species is very characteristic with two flap-like appendages above the claw of standard.

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Key words. Lathyrus, Papilionaceae, new species, Siahlan, Iran.

Introduction

During our study in Alamut district (Kuhe Siahlan), we found a new species of Lathyrus L. (Papilionaceae) which is described and illustrated here. The genus Lathyrus is ± a wide spreading genus in Iran with about 22 species described from Iran in Flora of Iran (Neamati 2000). The species of the genus are mostly annuals or some perennials, growing in the forest or Rangeland areas, most of them are prostrate on the ground, some with ± erect to ascending stem, but the new species have a woody rootstock with erect stems. Some species are important as forage and pasture plants, one of them rarely is cultivated in Iran, Lathyrus alamutensis Mozaffarian, Ahvazi & Charkhchian, sp. nov. (fig. 1)

Perennis, pluricaulis, glaber vel sparse pilosus. Caulis 40-50 cm altus, erectus vel ascendens, tenuis, e basi ramosus, superne parce ramosus, angulato-costatus, parce foliatus. Stipulae usque ad 4-8 mm longae, semisagittatae, glabrae vel parce pilosae. Folia basalia mox decidua; folia caulina inferiora petiolata, paripinnata, unijuga, raro bijuga, rhachidibus in aristas breves excurrentibus; foliola in foliis basalibus linearibus, subparallele nervosis, usque ad 25-35 × 1-2 mm, acutis; in foliis cauliniis medianis longioribus, usque ad 80 × 2-3 mm, in foliis cauliniis superioribus berevioribus et angustioribus, filiformibus. Inflorescentia 1-2 flora, erecto-patentia, folio fulcrantia longiora. Pedicelli usque ad 3-4 mm longi. Calyx usque ad 4-6 mm longus, glaber; dentes calycinis subaequales, inferiores tubum 3-4 plo berviores, lanceolati, superioribus angustioribus et angustioribus, filiformibus. Inflorescentia 1-2 flora, erecto-patentia, folio fulcrantia longiora. 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Fig. 1. *Lathyrus alamutensis* (x0.75); flower parts (x3).
Lathyrus alamutensis

auriculata, quam alae brevior. Stylus linearispathatus, ad apicem pilosus. Legumen juvenale usque ad 30 mm longum et 4 mm latum, linearisoblongum, sessile, glabrum.


Affinities. New species by having erect angular stems, pinnate leaves with one pair of leaflets, semisagitate stipules and linear-spathulate style belongs to the Sect. Platystylis (Sweet) Bassler, by having two flap-like (pocket) processes on the lower inner surface of standard above the claw is ± close to Lathyrus boissieri Sirj, but wholly different with all species mentioned by Rechinger (1979) and Neamati (2000) from Iran. The studies were mainly based on the new collected material and herbarium specimens of (TARI), for confident determination the specimens compared with Lathyrus species described in adjacent floras such as Flora of Iraq Townsend (1974), Flora of Turkey Davis (1970) and Flora of USSR Fedchenko (1948).

Perennial with woody rootstock, many stemmed, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Stems up to 40-50 cm high, erect or ascending, thin, brachend from the base, sparsely branched in upper part, angularly costate, loosely leafy. Stipules semisagitate, glabrous or sparingly hairy. Basal leaves petiolate, nearly with parallel nerves, paripinnate, with a single pair of leaflets; leaflets up to 25-35 mm long and 1-2 mm wide, linear-lanceolate, acute; median stem leaves longer up to 80×2-3 mm; upper stem leaves shorter and narrower, filiform or linear. Inflorescence a few flowered raceme or with a single flower, erect-spreading, longer than the subtending leaf; pedicels up to 3-4 mm long. Calyx up to 4 mm long, glabrous; calyx teeth unequal, lower ones ± shorter than the calyx tube, lanceolate; upper ones much shorter. Corolla pale rose or purple, 10-12 mm long. Style linear, ca. 4 mm long. Young legumes up to 30 mm × 4 mm, linear-oblong, sessile, glabrous.

References