

# FUIRENA PUBESCENS (CYPERACEAE), FIRST REPORT OF THE GENUS FOR IRAN

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Among the herbarium specimens, *Fuirena pubescens* was identified which is the first report of the genus for Iran. Morphological characters, habitat, geographical distribution in the world and Iran are also presented.

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## Cyperaceae

در بررسی نمونه‌های هرباریومی متعلق به تیره اویارسلام گونه *Fuirena pubescens* از تیره *Cyperaceae* به عنوان اولین گزارش از جنسی جدید برای ایران معرفی می‌گردد. پراکنش جغرافیایی، رویشگاه و صفات متمایز کننده این جنس و گونه ارایه می‌گردد.

### Introduction

Revising the herbarium specimens in order to prepare Flora of Iran, *Cyperaceae* family (Assadi 1989), an interesting specimen was seen in the herbarium of Kerman Research Center of Agricultural and Natural Resources. This specimen was later identified as *Fuirena pubescens* (Poir.) Kunth.

*Cyperaceae* with about 125 species, is a large monocotyledons family in Iran. In *Cyperaceae* Flora Iranica (Kukkonen 1998), 15 genera have been reported from Iran of which *Fuirena* genus was introduced for the first time from Iranian Plateau. The genus has been reported from Afghanistan (Kukkonen 1998) and Pakistan (Kukkonen 2001).

*Fuirena* belongs to *Cyperoideae* subfamily and *Scirpeae* tribe. Important distinctive morphological characters of the genus from the other genera are: stem with several elongated internodes and presence of leaves on the nodes. The genus has c. 30 species distributed in warm regions of the world and only one species in Flora Iranica area (Kukkonen 1998).

***Fuirena pubescens* (Poir.) Kunth** -(Fig. 1).

Syn.: *Carex pubescens* Poir.; *Scirpus pubescens* (Poir.) Lam.

Kerman: Kahnouj, Faryab, Mehroyeh, 900 m, Saber 5888.

Perennial, 30-45 cm high. Rhizome horizontal, short. Stem trigonous, with 4-7 internodes; basal internode short; distal internodes pubescent or papillose. Leaves 4-7, c. as long as internodes; lowest sheaths c. 10 mm long, bladeless, soft, pubescent; others 15 to 30 mm long, papillose, glabrous or upper pubescent, mouth slightly oblique, widely scarious; ligule c. 1 mm long, scarious, light brown, ciliate; blades 3.5 to 15 cm long, keeled, flat, at the apex trigonous, pubescent. Inflorescence with 4 or 5 sessile spikes; peduncle short, pubescent, with tubular prophyll. Spikes 9-12 x c. 5 mm; prophyll binerved, pubescent, e.g. 2.6 mm; glumes c. 3.5 mm long, cymbiform, pubescent, truncate, arista 2-2.5 mm long, scabrous. Perianth bristles absent; Stamens 3. Nut c. 1.5 x 0.8 mm, obovoid, sharply

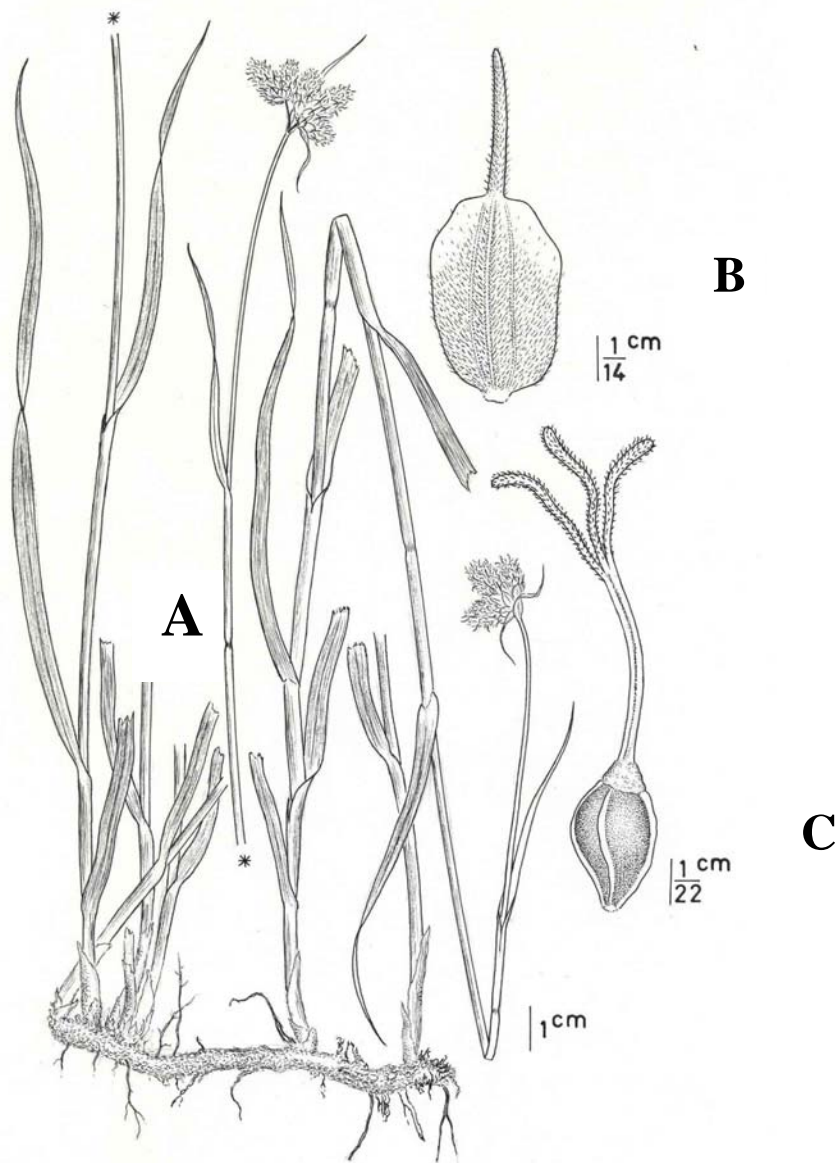


Fig. 1. *Fuirena pubescens*: A. habit, B. glume, C. nut.

trigonus, at the sides convex, white, glossy, finely reticulate; stylopodium c. 0.3 x 0.3 mm, trigonus, reticulate, white.

*Habitat.* stream side in altitude 900 m.

*General distribution.* Europe, Turkey, Iran, Afganistan, Pakistan, India, Lebanon and Africa.

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