NOVELTIES IN ALCEA (MALVACEAE) FROM IRAN

M. Pakravan


Alcea semnanica and Alcea assadii are described as new species from Semnan and Azerbaijan provinces. A. semnanica differs from A. chrysantha in the petal color, shape and indumentum of carpel. A. assadii differs from A. excubita in the petal color, indumentum of carpel and inflorescence type, and with A. flavovirens in the leaf shape, flower size and inflorescence type.

Maneezhe Pakravan, Alzahra university, Faculty of Science, P. O. Box 19935-567, Tehran, Iran.

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Introduction

Alcea is a mainly south west Asian genus with about 70 species. About 36 species has been found in Iran (Ghahreman et al. 2001, Pakravan & Ghahreman 2002 and 2003; Pakravan 2003). Following a detailed examination of plant in their habitats and of preserved specimens in the herbarium of Wien (W) and herbarium of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (TARI) and those obtained on loan from other herbaria (BM, E, HUJ, P, JE, WU, IRAN, TUH) two older specimens are discovered that represent a still undescribed species, which are here described as new to science.

Alcea semnanica Pakravan, sp. nov. –Fig. 1.

Typus. Iran: Semnan, Damghan, Cheshmeh-Ali, 1500m, 9. 8. 1983, V. Mozaffarian 45550 (holotypus TARI); the same Mozaffarian 45549.

Planta biennis vel perrenis, 60-70 cm fere alta. Caulis glaber. Stipulae 3-4 fidae. Folia 3-5 nervia, basalia rotundata, integra; petioli usque ad 20-30 cm longi; folia caulina superiora ovoto-cordata vel obsolete trilobata, basi truncata, omnia margine dentata. Flores singuli. Involucrum ½ longitudinis calyce attingens, in lacinias 6-7 acute triangularares, pilis longe et dense stellatis obsitis. Calyx 18-20 mm longus, usque ad medium divisum, corolla duplo ad triplo breviar, pilis dense stellatis obsitis. Calyces lacunae striatae. Petela alba vel rosea, basin versus flavida, calyce 2.5-3 plo longiora. Carpella suborbicularia, lateribus dense pilosa, alis angustissimis, 0.75-1 mm latis, radialiter rugosis, sulco dorsali lato basi tota latitudine patule pilosa.

The new species is similar to Alcea chrysantha (Sam.) Zohary, but differs in having white or pink
Fig. 1. *Alcea semnanica* (x0.57); carpel (x5).
corolla (yellow in *A. chrysantha*) and hairy, winged carpel (glabrous and wingless in *A. chrysantha*).

**Alcea assadii** Pakravan, sp. nov. –Fig. 2.

*Typus.* Iran: Azerbaijan, 7 km from Kaleybar to Aslandoos, 500 m, 12. 9. 1981, V. Mozaffarian & A. Mohamadi 37715 (holotypus TARI).

Planta perennis, humilis, plerumque ± 50 (65) cm alta, ramosa. Caulis pilis laxe stellatis tecto. Stipulae bifidae. Folia longe petiolata, 3.5-5.5 cm longa; lamina 5-lobata, 2-4 cm lata, usqi ad 2/3 palmatipartita, lacinii oblongo-spathulatiss, supra laxius, subtus densius pilis stellatis vestita. Inflorescentia thyroidea. Pedunculus 2 cm altus. Flores 2-4 ni cymus. Involucrum ½ longitudinis calyces attingens, in lacinias 5-8 acutas triangulares, pilis brevissimis appressis stellatim dispositis tectis, apices versus glabrescentes divisum. Calyx 10 mm longus, striatus, quam involucrum densius pilosus. Petala 20 mm longa, flava, in sicco virescentia. Carpella 5 mm longa, laterius dense pilosa, stellata; alis subtilissime plicatis.

Perennial, short, about 50(-65) cm high. Stem relatively slender, mostly branched in lower part, with scattered fugacious stellate hairs. Stipules 2- parted. Leaves with small blade, 3.5-5.5 cm long, 2-4 cm broad, palmately 5-lobed; lobes oblong-spaghulate, two- third of blade length, at the margin dentate, on the upper surface with scattered stellate hairs, more densely hairy beneath; petiole 3.5-5 cm long. Inflorescence a scattered thyrse. Flowers 2-4 in lateral cymes. Pedicel 2 cm long. Epicalyx of 5-8 triangular-acute segments, almost united to the middle, about half length of calyx, covered with small appressed stellate hairs, more scattered or glabrous in the apex. Calyx 10 mm long, with distinguished nerves, covered with a dense stellate hairs. Corolla yellow, sometimes faintly greenish when drying. Carpels approximately 20-25, winged, 5 mm long and 5 mm broad, deeply channeled; wings glabrous, radially wrinkled, thin; sides around notch convex and glabrous; remaining part with dense stellate hairs.

The new species is very closely related to *Alcea excubita* Iljin, but differs in having yellow petals (white in *A. excubita*) and stellate hairs in lateral side of carpel (glabrous in *A. excubita*), also it is similar to *A. flavovirens* (Boiss. et Buhse) Iljin, but differs from it in having small leaves and flowers (larger in *A. flavovirens*), more shallow leaf lobes (leaves cleft down to base in *A. flavovirens*), and thyroid inflorescence (racem in *A. flavovirens*).

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**References**


Fig. 2. *Alcea assadii* (x 0.5); carpel (x5).