

# ISOLEPIS CERNUA (CYPERACEAE), A NEW RECORD FROM NORTH OF IRAN

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*Isolepis cernua* (Vahl) Roemer & Schultes is reported as new for the flora of Iran. The species has been collected from the coast of the Caspian Sea in Chamkhaleh (Langerud), in Gilan province. It has not been previously reported from the "Flora Iranica" area. Differences between *I. cernua* and the other Iranian species, *I. setacea* (L.) R. Br. are discussed and their geographical distribution is demonstrated.

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*Key words.* Cyperaceae, *Isolepis*, Iran, new record.

گزارش یک گونه جدید از خانواده سیپراسه برای ایران (لنگرود، چمخاله)  
ایلکا کوکونن، احمد قهرمان و علیرضا نقی نژاد

گونه *Isolepis cernua* برای اولین بار در منطقه فلورا ایرانیکا (از ساحل چمخاله) گزارش می‌شود. این گونه با دیگر گونه ایرانی همین جنس یعنی *Isolepis setacea* مورد مقایسه قرار گرفته، انتشار جغرافیایی هر دو گونه بحث می‌شود.

Tab. 1. Comparison of 2 *Isolepis* species in Iran.

Species	Duration	Nut	Involucral bract
<i>Isolepis cernua</i>	Annual	Dull, smooth, or finely longitudinally papillose	Not longer than 1 cm, often shorter than the inflorescence
<i>I. setacea</i>	Perennial or sometimes annual	Shiny, prominently longitudinally ribbed	Bract up to 2 cm, usually exceeding the inflorescence

## Introduction

During our studies on the flora of Chamkhaleh region in Langerud (Iran, prov. Gilan) in the framework of a B.Sc. thesis, an interesting plant belonging to *Cyperaceae* was collected near the coast of the Caspian sea within a population of *Juncus littoralis* C. A. Mey. The plant was determined as *Isolepis cernua* (Vahl) Roemer & Schultes. The species has not been previously reported from the "Flora Iranica" area (Kukkonen 1998).

## *Isolepis cernua* (Vahl) Roemer & Schultes, (Fig. 1, Map 1).

Gilan: Langerud, Chamkhaleh, -26m, 20. 6. 2000, Naqinezhad 21524 (TUH).

Annual, 3-20 cm. Stems erect, filiform, striate. Leaves with short subulate blades. Inflorescence pseudolateral, of 1(-2) spikelets. Involucral bract 1, erect, setaceous, not exceeding 1 cm, dilated at base. Spikelet(s) 3-4 mm, ovoid, 6-20-flowered. Glumes ovate,

mucronulate, greenish at keel, longitudinally finely plicate. Hypogynous bristles absent. Stigmas 3. Nut trigonous, broadly obovoid, finely punctulate.

In "Flora Iranica" (Kukkonen 1998) the genus *Isolepis* includes only one species namely *I. setacea*. The differences between *I. cernua* and *I. setacea* are presented in Table 1.

*Habitat.* *Isolepis cernua* was collected from a humid place, within a population of *Juncus littoralis*.

*General distribution.* N & S America, N, S & E Africa, S & W Europe, W Turkey, Cyprus, W Syria, Palestina, Australia and Newzealand.

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## Reference

Kukkonen, I. 1998: *Cyperaceae* in K. H. Rechinger(ed.) *Flora Iranica* no. 173- Graz.

Map 1. Distribution of *Isolepis* species in Iran and neighbouring countries. *I. cernua* ○; *I. setacea* ●

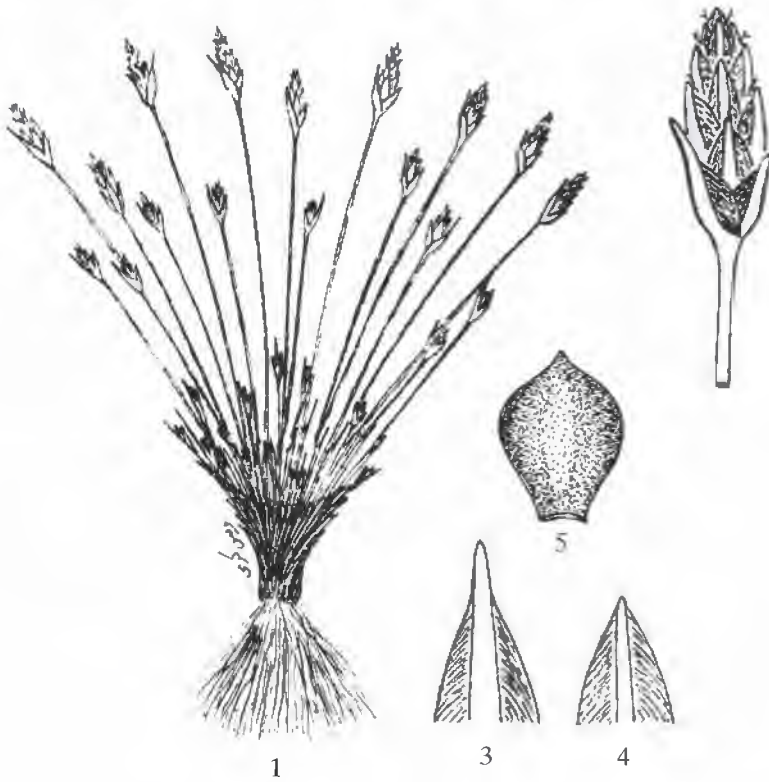
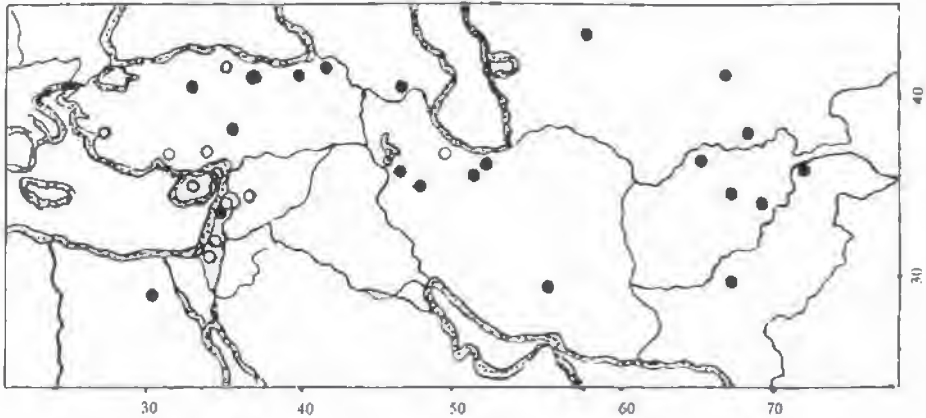


Fig. 1. *Isolepis cernua* 1. Habit(x1.4); 2. Spike(x6); 3. Involucral bract(x19); 4. Glume(x25); 5. Nut (x 20).



**Fig. 2.** Nuts of *Isolepis* species; *I. cernua* (upper) and *I. setacea* (lower).