A NEW SPECIES OF BUPLEURUM (UMBELLIFERAE) FROM GILAN PROVINCE, IRAN

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A new species of the genus Bupleurum from Gilan province is described and illustrated. Morphological peculiarities are mentioned. The new species are compared with the closely related species.

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Key words. New species; Umbelliferae; Bupleurum; Gilan Province; Iran

INTRODUCTION

During the study on forest flora of Gilan Province the author concluded that the collection of Bupleurum from Gilan province (Mozaffarian, 97534, TARI) clearly differs from other Iranian species of the genus. It will be described as a new species and compared with its closely related taxa.

New species

Bupleurum gilanicum Mozaff. sp. nov. (fig. 1).

Perennial, glabrous, rootstock thick, covered by remnants of dead petioles, more or less woody. Stem stout, ascending or erect, 50-60 cm high, leafy, conspicuously striate, branched from near the base. All leaves thick, more or less coriaceous; basal leaves long petiolate, spathulate to orbicular, gradually passing over to oblong-elliptic leaves, margins entire, conspicuously cartilaginous, 8-nerved, secondary nerves reticulate; lower cauline leaves oblong-linear, gradually tapering to long petiole; upper cauline leaves sessile, oblong-linear; uppermost leaves and those subtending branches sessile, oblong-ovate, entire. Synflorescence paniculate. Bracts 5-6, ovate-elliptic, acuminate. Umbel rays 7-14, unequal, 1. 5-4. 5 cm long, thin. Bracteoles 5-6, similar to bracts, but smaller. Umbellule 15-20-flowered. Pedicels 2-3 mm long. Fruit (submatured) ca. 2×1. 5 mm, becoming brown, pruinose; ribs prominent. Stylopodium depressed-conical; style short, reflexed.

Type: Gilan, Chaboksar, Rahimabad, Eshkevarat, rocky mountain, margin of road after Garmabdasht, close to tunnel. N 36º 51’ 42”; E 50º 13’ 17”; 475 m a. s. l 29. 4. 2014. V. Mozaffarian, 97534, TARI.

The new species with spathulate, orbicular to broadly elliptic basal leaves is isolated among perennial Bupleurum species. It is close to B. falcatum subsp. polyphyllum from Turkey which is a polymorphic complex with leaves 5-23 mm broad and 5-9 veined. According to Flora of USSR it is close to B. polyphyllum (which is considered as a distinct species) and according to Mozaffarian (1991) it is close to Bupleurum ghahremani but differ from them by characters showed in the table 1.
Fig. 1. Bupleurum gilanicum Mozaff. A, Plant habit; B, fruit.
Table 1. Comparison of characters in *Bupleurum gilanicum*, *Bupleurum polyphyllum* and *Bupleurum ghahremanii*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Basal leaves</th>
<th>Cauline leaves</th>
<th>Upper cauline leaves</th>
<th>Stem</th>
<th>Bract</th>
<th>Bracteole</th>
<th>Umbrell rays</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>B. gilanicum</em></td>
<td>Coriaceous, spathulate to orbicular,</td>
<td>Lower oblong-elliptic, median much smaller and</td>
<td>Sessile oblong-ovate</td>
<td>One</td>
<td>5-6, ovate-elliptic, acuminate</td>
<td>5-6, similar to bracts but smaller</td>
<td>10-14 unequal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>evidently cartilaginous</td>
<td>narrower than the lower</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>B. polyphyllum</em></td>
<td>Lanceolate or oblanceolate non</td>
<td>Lower similar to basal, median much larger than</td>
<td>Oblong-ovate or</td>
<td>One or few to 4-6</td>
<td>1-5, lanceolate, long acuminate</td>
<td>6-12, rarely 5 linear-lanceolate</td>
<td>(3-) 8-12 unequal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cartilaginous</td>
<td>the lower leaves</td>
<td>broadly lanceolate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>B. ghahremanii</em></td>
<td>Herbaceous, spathulate or oblong-elliptic, oblong-elliptic, obsoletely cartilaginous</td>
<td>Lower and median linear-lanceolate</td>
<td>Bract-like lanceolate or deficient from the base</td>
<td>Few, branching from the base</td>
<td>5, very unequal, lanceolate, to linear-lanceolate</td>
<td>5-6, similar to bracts but smaller</td>
<td>3-6 evidently unequal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

REFERENCES