

## A NEW RECORD OF ASPARAGUS (ASPARAGACEAE) FROM IRAN

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*Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* is a new record for the flora of Iran. This species has been collected from Balouchestan province in SE. of Iran. Characteristics, exact localities, habitat, geographical distribution and the last state of nomenclature are explained.

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**Key words:** *Asparagaceae*; *Asparagus*; new record; Balouchestan; Iran

گزارش گونه جدیدی از *Asparagus*، تیره *Asparagaceae* برای فلور ایران

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گونه *Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می گردد. این گونه از جنوب سیستان و بلوچستان جمع آوری شده است. ویژگیها، محل دقیق جمع آوری، رویشگاه، پراکنش جغرافیایی و آخرین وضعیت نامگذاری گونه توضیح داده می شود.

### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Asparagus* is widely distributed throughout the world. It has been divided into two subgenera: subgenus *Asparagus* and subgenus *Asparagopsis* (Willd.) Baker, (Browicz 1990) Baker (1875) recognized some 120 species of the genus, of which 10 occur in Iran (Baker J. G. 1875; Iljin 1935, Parsa 1949; Wendelbo 1964; Wendelbo in C. C. Townsend & E. Guest 1985; Davis, 1984;.. Browicz 1990; Hamdi & Assadi 2009). While preparing the account of Asparagaceae Juss. for the Flora of Iran, herbarium materials of TARI and IRAN were studied and field observations throughout of Iran including Balouchestan province from 2009 to 2011 were implemented. During these studies a new record to Iran namely *Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* which is native to Afghanistan, Pakistan (N. W. F. province, Punjab, Baluchistan) and India (Himachal Pradesh, U. P., Behar, South India) was identified (Browicz 1990). This new record belongs to subgenus *Asparagopsis*. The aim of this paper is to record this species from Iran and to give information on the morphology, habitats and distribution of it.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study on *Asparagus* in this study is mainly based on plant materials deposited in the herbarium

TARI and IRAN (acronyms according to Holmgren & Holmgren, 1998), using the identification keys from different flora books.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### New record

*Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* (Royle) Browicz, in Rechinger K. H. (ed.). Flora Iranica no. 165, Pp. 175.

Usually glaucous perennial herb with only lower part woody, branched, glabrous, recumbent; stem 80-120 cm. long; between branches 4-8 cm; between fascicles 10-20 mm long; cladodes 1-3 in fascicles, 5-15 × 0. 2-0. 3 mm long; longest cladodes 20 mm long, acute, unequal, straight. Scale like leaves, membranous, 5-6 mm long, spurred. Pedicles 5-7 mm long, longer of perianth, 4-5 mm long. Flowers binary. Stamens 6, 2-3 mm long; anthers 2 -2. 5 mm. Berry 4-5 mm long, spherical, brown- blackish.; berry stalk 1-1. 3 mm long, seed 1 in a fruit, (fig. 1).

*Specimen studied:* Iran, Balouchestan: Nikshahr, 29. 3. 49, 900 m, Sohani (IRAN 29594).

General distribution: *Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* is native in Afghanistan, Pakistan (N. W. F. Province, Punjab, Baluchistan), India (Himachal Pradesh, U. P., Behar, South India) and Iran.



Fig. 1. *Asparagus capitatus* subsp. *gracilis* (IRAN 29594).

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