Coelachyrum brevifolium, an annual grass report from Baluchestan, Iran

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During the study of the plants collected from South-East Iran (Baluchestan), a specimen was identified as Coelachyrum brevifolium which is reported as a new record to the flora of Iran. The genus was previously known with one species (C. piercei) in Iran. Unlike C. piercei, the species is an annual plant. Morphological characteristics, habitat, images, distribution map and identification key to the species of the genus in Iran are presented.

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Key words: Poaceae; Coelachyrum; new record; flora; Iran

INTRODUCTION

Coelachyrum Hochst. & Nees of tribe Eragrostideae Stapf has about 6 species in the world (Cope 1982) of which recently C. yemenicum (Schweinf.) S.M.Phillips has been transferred to Disakisperma Steud. (Snow & al. 2013). The genus distributes from Northeast Africa, Arabia to Pakistan and grows on sand dunes in semi desert regions.

Plants of the genus Eragrostis Wolf are similar to Coelachyrum but these two genera are recognized by their seed characters. These two genera are recognized for caryopsis characters (caryopsis surface is smooth or striate to reticulate in the first and rugose in the latter).

Bor (1970) reported C. piercei (Benth.) Bor from Pakistan. Assadi & Runemark (1983) collected a specimen from Baluchestan, Chabahar which was the first report of the genus under C. piercei from Iran.

Coelachyrum brevifolium unlike C. piercei is an annual plant and smaller in all parts. In recent collection from Baluchestan Province, a specimen was identified as C. brevifolium which is reported for the first time from Iran. Also, morphological characters, habitats and distribution map of species are provided. Coelachyrum species are compared with each other. Collecting data for the new record and new localities for C. piercei as well as a determination key for this genus are provided.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studied materials are collected from Baluchestan Province and are deposited in IRAN herbarium. The specimens were identified using different flora and monographs, which have been presented in text and references.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Coelachyrum brevifolium Hochst. & Nees, Linnaea
Baluchestan: 150 km and Bandar Lengeh, 5 km S.E. Bandar Moallem, 16.02.1975, Iranshahr & Termeh (29170-IRAN); 166 km Bandar-e Abbas to Bandar-e Lengeh, 8 m, 19.04.2009, Amini Rad & Torabi (53726-IRAN).
Baluchestan: 20 km Chabahar to Jask, 26.04.2008, Amini Rad & al. (51918-IRAN); 35 km Chabahar to Guatr, 27.04.2008, Amini Rad & al. (51913-IRAN);
Chabahar, 19.03.1971, Movassagh (51917-IRAN); 110 km Chabahar to Jask, 12.04.2010, Amini Rad & Torabi (57986-IRAN);
Konarak, Air force station, 10-20 m, 22.11.1982, Mozaffarian (39966-TARI); Chabahar, 0-5 m, 09.03.1977, Runemark, Assadi & Sardabi (22510-TARI).
Although Assadi & Runemark (1983) reported the species based on one locality, but recently, more localities has been found for the species and showed that it is distributed from west of Hormozgan province to east of Baluchestan. (Map 1).

Identification key for Coelachyrum species in Iran:
1- Plant annual, without rhizome; spikelets 3.5-4 mm long; lemma 1.5-2 mm C. brevifolium
- Plant perennial, rhizomatous; spikelets 5-6.5 mm long; lemma 2.7-3 mm C. piercei

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REFERENCES
Map 1. Distribution map of Coelachyrum species: ★ C. brevifolium; ★ C. piercei.
Fig. 1. Illustration of the *Coelachyrum brevifolium*: A, Habit; B, spikelet; C, lower glume; D, upper glume; E, lemma; F, palea; G, caryopsis.