

A NEW RECORD OF THE GENUS RUPPIA (RUPPIACEAE) FOR THE AQUATIC FLORA IRAN

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For the preparation of Flora of Iran, *Ruppiaceae*, *Ruppia cirrhosa* was collected from a wetland in Khuzestan province for the first time. This species is reported as a new record for the aquatic flora of Iran.

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Key words. *Ruppia*, Aquatic flora, new record, Iran.

Ruppiaceae

Ruppia

طی مطالعه فلور تیره *Ruppiaceae* گونه *Ruppia cirrhosa* از ماندابی در استان خوزستان برای اولین بار جمع آوری شد و به عنوان گونه جدیدی برای فلور آبی ایران معرفی می شود.

Introduction

The only genus of the family *Ruppiaceae* is *Ruppia*, which is very widely distributed over the world in saline waters, though not marine. *Ruppiaceae* is closely related to *Potamogetonaceae* and is included in that family by several characters, two flower spikes, lacking perianth and stipitate fruiting carpels (Dandy 1985). Dandy (1971) surveyed this family with only one species, *Ruppia maritima* L. in Flora Iranica, but in order to prepare Flora of Iran (Assadi 1986) the aqua families were revising and in recent plant collections in Khuzestan province, *Ruppia cirrhosa* (Petagna) Grande is reported as a new record for the flora of Iran. This species has been also reported within the neighboring countries, in Flora of Turkey, Flora of U. S. S. R. and Flora of Iraq (Uotila, 1984).

Key of the *Ruppia* species in Iran

1. Peduncle more than 7 cm and spirally twisted in fruit. Nutlets 3-4 mm long. Leaves 0.5 mm broad

R. cirrhosa

- Peduncle less than 3 cm and not spirally twisted. Nutlets 2-2.5 mm long. Leaves 0.1-0.2 mm broad

R. maritima

Ruppia cirrhosa (Petagna) Grande

Khuzestan: Masjed Solyman to Andica, after Masjed Solyman dam, after first tunnel, wetland on the right side of road, 650 m, 5 October 2008, M. Dinarvand &

J. Adel 8250 (Researches Center of Agriculture & Natural Resources of Khuzestan Herbarium).

Submerged of saline or brackish water, perennial herb, with long white stems. Leaves alternate, linear-filiform, less than 1 mm broad and more than 5 cm long, sheathing at base, 10-12 mm long. Inflorescence a short raceme appearing subumbellate, axillary, raising from opposite leaves; peduncle more than 7 cm and spirally twisted in fruit. Perianth lacking. Stamens around of carpels; anthers sessile. Carpels numerous, usually 4-6, free, at first sessile and then with 8-10 mm stipes. Nutlets oblique conical, 3-4 mm long, dark brown or black.

Distribution. Europe, Mediterranean area, Caucasus, Africa & N America.

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Fig. 1. *Ruppia cirrhosa* (left) and *R. maritima* (right), (x0.85).