

COLUTEA KOMAROVII (FABACEAE), A NEW RECORD FROM NW IRAN

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Colutea komarovii is recorded from Iran for the first time. The specimens were collected in NW Iran near Aras river. *C. komarovii* formerly has been recorded from Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia. This species belongs to *Colutea* sect. *Armata* that includes four species, of which now three are known from Iran.

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گونه *Colutea komarovii*، گزارش جدیدی از شمال غرب ایران

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گونه *Colutea komarovii* برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می‌شود. نمونه‌های گیاهی این گونه از شمال غرب ایران در حاشیه رودخانه ارس جمع‌آوری شده‌اند. این گونه تا به حال از ارمنستان و جمهوری آذربایجان گزارش شده بود. گونه مذکور به سکسیون *Armata* تعلق دارد. این سکسیون دارای چهار گونه است که با این گزارش، سه گونه آن در ایران می‌رویند.

Introduction

Colutea L. (*Fabaceae*), a small genus includes shrubs or small trees with inflated fruits. It has nearly 30 species in the Mediterranean region to China, Himalaya, E and NE Africa, mostly distributed in dry mountains (Lock & Simpson 1991, Mabberly 1997). Genus *Colutea* includes 13 species, in three sections in the Iranian plateau. Seven species of this genus thrive in Iran, of which five are endemics (Browicz 1984).

In this paper one species nameing *Colutea komarovii* Takht. belonging to *Colutea* sect. *Armata* Browicz is recorded from E Azerbaijan province, Iran. This section was originally established in 1963 with 3 species (Browicz 1967). Later, the number of species rose to four that are including: *C. komarovii* Takht. (endemic to Caucasus), *C. uniflora* G. Beck ex Stapf (endemic to Iran), *C. armata* Hemsl. & Lace (endemic to Pakistan), and *C. porphyrogramma* Rech. f. (endemic to Iran). The section is characterized by an inflorescence with few (1-2) small flowers.

The description of *Colutea* sect. *Armata* Browicz is as follows: Shrub spinescent. Leaves with 1 to 2 (3) pairs of leaflets; leaflets minute, usually pubescent on

both sides. Flowers minute, single or in pairs; keel with beak. Fruit broadly ovate, shortly pointed.

Colutea komarovii Takht., Not. Syst. Inst. Bot. Tphilis, 9: 22 (1940).

The description of *C. komarovii* is based on the Iranian specimens, Mulkidzhanian (1962) and Shishkin (1945). Shrub up to 2 m high. Branches with smooth bark and short spinescent branchlets. Stipules yellow, up to 1 mm long, ovate-triangular, covered with white hairs. Leaves fasciculate, 7-15 mm long; petiole 2.5-8 mm long; leaflets 1-2 (-3) pairs, 3-5.5 mm long and 2-5 mm broad, oval to oval-obovate, shortly mucronate, nearly densely hairy to nearly glabrous, petiolulate (0.3-0.5 mm long). Inflorescence (1-)2-flowered; peduncle 3-7 mm long. Pedicels 1.5-2.5 mm long, densely white hairy with scattered black hairs. Bracts 1-1.5 x 0.4-0.5 mm, lanceolate to subulate, brown, glabrous, sparsely covered with short white and black hairs. Calyx campanulate, 4-5- (-5.5) mm long; teeth subulate to subulate-triangular, unequal, acute, 1-2 mm long, with densely white appressed hairs in flowering (fruiting calyx with scattered hairs). Corolla glabrous; standard orbicular; limb 8 mm long and c. 10 mm wide, with



Fig. 1. *Colutea komarovii* from Ghahremani & Imani 7815.

purple veins, in upper part purple to purple-violet, in middle and lower parts yellow; claw c. 1.5 mm long; wing shorter than the keel; limb oblong, obtuse, purple, c. 5.5 mm long and c. 2 mm wide; claw 2-2.8 mm long; keel curved; limb purple, curved, attenuate above, rostrate, obtuse-rounded, 7 mm long and c. 4.5 mm wide; the auricle c. 2.5 mm long. Ovary oblong-linear, glabrous, c. 3.5 mm long, the stipe c. 5 mm long; style curved, c. 6 mm long, pilose at the top. Stamens c. 19 mm long, unequal; anthers yellow. Legume inflated, spherical, 1.7-2.7 cm long, 1.2-2 cm broad, acute, glabrous, maculate, thick papery-leathery, the stipe c. 4 mm long, c. 0.6 mm broad. Seeds olive-brown, reniform-suborbicular, 4.5-5 mm long, 4 mm wide.

Specimen seen. Iran. E Azarbayjan Province: 51 km from Jolfa to Duzal, margin of Aras river, 850 m, 13.6.2002, Ghahremani & Imani 7815 (FAR, Herb. Research Center of Natural Resources of Tabriz, Iran).

An identification key for species *Colutea* section *Armata* in Iran:

1. Fruit glabrous. Leaflets $2-5.5 \times 1-5$ mm 2
- Fruit pubescent. Leaflets larger (10×7 mm)

C. uniflora

2. Leaflets $2-3$ (-4) \times 1-2; pedicel 3-5 mm long. Fruit thin, papery with dark- purple reticulation

C. porphyrogramma

- Leaflets $3-5.5 \times 2-5$ mm; pedicel 1.5-2.5 mm long. Fruit thick, papery-leathery, maculate *C. komarovii*

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