

# A NEW RECORD FOR THE FLORA OF IRAN: LONICERA MICROPHYLLA (CAPRIFOLIACEAE)

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*Lonicera microphylla* Willd. ex Roem. & Schultes is recorded here for the first time from Iran. This species, in Iranian plateau, was previously known from Afghanistan and Pakistan. With this record the number of *Lonicera* species in Iran increases to nine.

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## گزارش جدیدی برای فلور ایران: *Lonicera microphylla* (Caprifoliaceae)

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گونه *Lonicera microphylla* Willd. ex Roem. & Schultes برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می گردد. این گونه در محدوده فلات ایران از افغانستان و پاکستان گزارش شده است. با این گزارش تعداد گونه‌های این جنس در ایران به ۹ می رسد.

## Introduction

*Lonicera* L. (Caprifoliaceae) includes more than 180 species in the world (Mabberley 2008), with 19 species in the Flora Iranica region (Wendelbo 1965). Six species occur in Iran based on a treatment by Wendelbo (1965), while eight are listed in a treatment by Khatamsaz (1995).

During floristic investigation by the authors in Saluk National Park, Khorassan province (NE Iran) that started in spring 2008, one rare and interesting *Lonicera* shrub was observed and herbarium specimen was collected for the further taxonomic study.

Based on the Flora Iranica treatment (Wendelbo 1965), this specimen is determined as *Lonicera microphylla* Willd. ex Roem. & Schultes a new record for the flora of Iran. The total species for the genus with this new record has now reached to nine in Iranian territory.

***Lonicera microphylla*** Willd. ex Roem. & Schultes, Syst. Veg. 5: 258 (1819).

Shrub 2.5 m high. Stem woody, highly branched. Leaf narrowly elliptic to obovate; rounded, obtuse or acute, (0.5) 1-2 cm long and 0.3-1.2 cm wide, on both sides covered with loosely short appressed hairs or glabrous,

ciliate at the margin; petiole  $\pm$  2 mm long. Peduncles 5-7 mm long. Bracts linear, shorter than the ovaries. Bracteole absent. Calyx margin undulate (wavy). Ovaries glabrous; united up to middle. Corolla yellow, 8-12 mm long; tube distinctly gibbous at the base; lower lip longer than the upper. Stamens shorter than the upper lip (Fig. 1).

*Specimen seen.* Iran: Northern Khorassan, Saluk National Park. Joz valley, 1702 m, 15.4.2009, A. Ezazi 5320 (the herbarium specimens are deposited at FAR and TARI herbaria).

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## References

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Fig. 1. *Lonicera microphylla*. -A. Ezazi 5320.

