

## **AMARANTHUS SPINOSUS L. (AMARANTHACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR THE FLORA OF IRAN**

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*Amaranthus spinosus* L. (Amaranthaceae) was collected from Lavandvil Wildlife Refuge (near Astara) in Gilan Province on sandy lands. This species is reported for the first time from Iran.

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زینب محمدزاده، مسعود شیدایی و مصطفی اسدی

گزارش جدید گونه *Amaranthus spinosus* از ایران

گونه *Amaranthus spinosus* L. (Amaranthaceae) که از اراضی ماسه‌ای پناهگاه حیات وحش لوندویل (در نزدیکی آستارا) در استان گیلان جمع‌آوری شده است، برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می‌شود.

### Introduction

During collecting the species of the genus *Amaranthus* in Iran, *Amaranthus spinosus* L. was collected and identified in Lavandvil Wildlife Refuge, in Gilan province. This is the only population that we have found in Iran up to now.

### *Amaranthus spinosus* L.

Gilan: Astara, Lavandvil Wildlife Refuge, 12. sep. 2003, Mohamadzadeh & Zehzad, no. ZM 2003-123.

The Voucher specimens are kept in Shahid Beheshti University Herbarium in ESRI (Environmental Sciences Research Institute) and also TARI.

This species is notably distinguished from the other species of the genus *Amaranthus* by possessing a pair of strong spines at the base of petioles (fig.1).

Turkey is the nearest place to our locality that this species has been recorded (Gonen & Uygur 2000); also it has been recorded from Afghanistan (Aellen 1972) and Pakistan (Townsend 1974).

*A. spinosus* L. is a robust bushy herbaceous annual, grows in sand dunes not far from the

sea shore in Lavandvil Wildlife Refuge. In our specimen, all of the fruits are indehiscent, whereas specimens from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Arabian Peninsula and Socotra and Britain have been reported with both dehiscent and indehiscent fruits (Townsend 1974; Aellen 1972; Gonen & Uygur 2000; Miller 1996; Brennan 1961).

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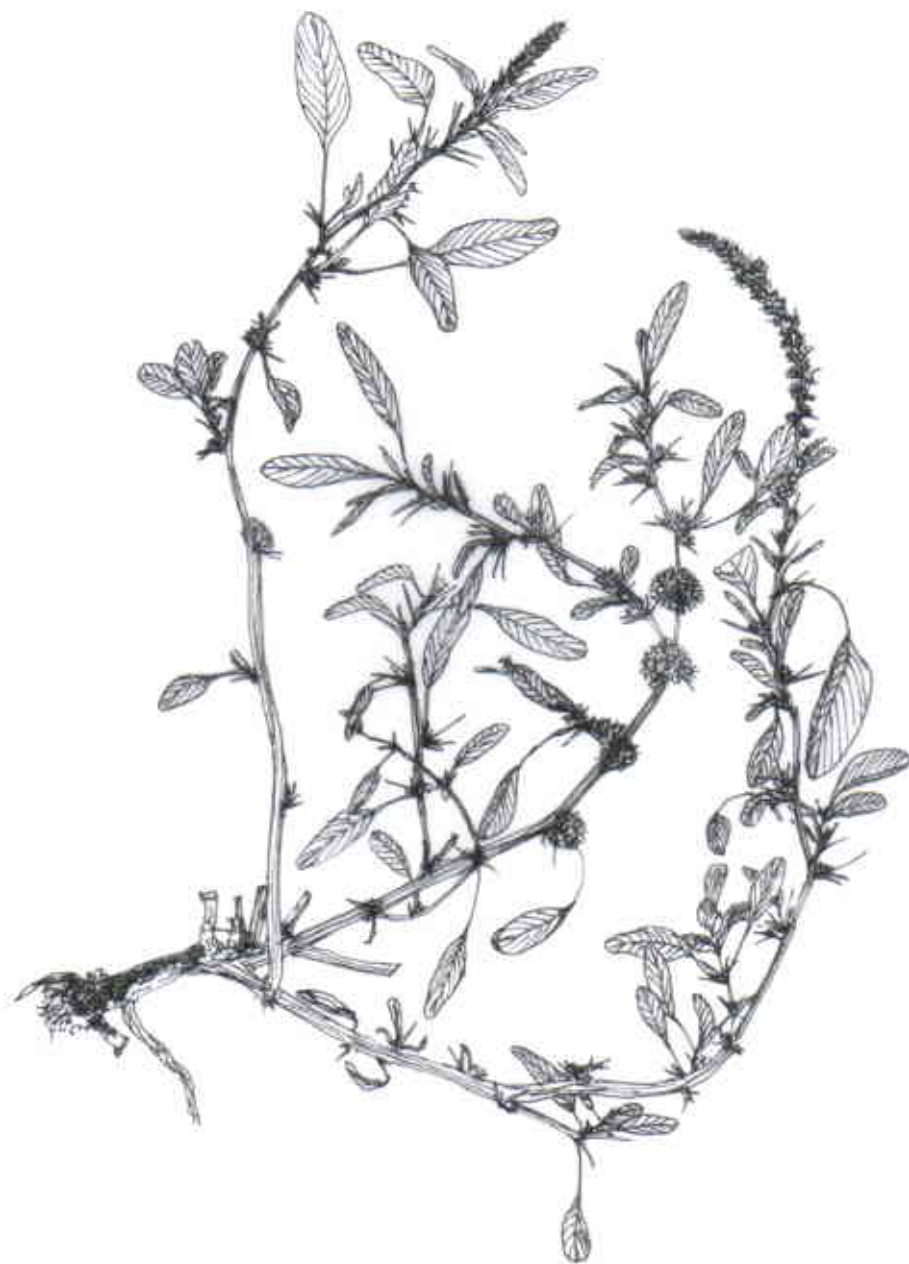


Fig. 1. *Amaranthus spinosus* ( $\times 0.6$ ).

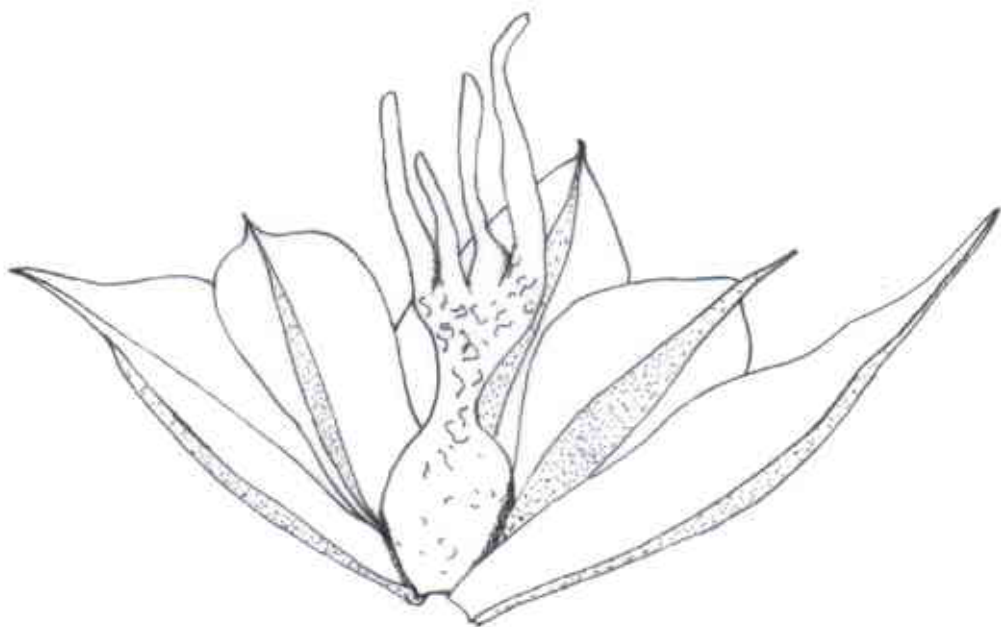


Fig. 2. *Amaranthus spinosus*, flower ( $\times 19$ ).