

A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS COLCHICUM (LILIACEAE) FROM IRAN

F. Matin & M. Iranshahr

Matin F. & Iranshahr M. 2000 08 01: A new species of the genus *Colchicum* (Liliaceae) from Iran. -Iran. Journ. Bot. 8 (2): 251-254. Tehran.

Colchicum bakhtiaricum is described as a new species from Iran. The new species is compared with its closest relative *C. varians* and also *C. schimperi*.

Farideh Matin & Mousa Iranshahr, Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute, P. O. Box 1454-19395, Tehran, Iran.

گونه جدیدی از جنس *Colchicum* (Liliaceae) از ایران

فریده متین و موسی ایرانشهر

گونه *Colchicum bakhtiaricum* به عنوان گونه‌ای جدید نامگذاری و شرح داده می‌شود. اختلافات گونه جدید با گونه‌های وابسته (*C. schimperi* و *C. varians*) توضیح داده می‌شود.

Introduction

In the course of studies on the genus *Colchicum* in Iran, a new species was recognized. The new species is described and the differences with the closest relatives are discussed.

***Colchicum bakhtiaricum* Matin & Iranshahr, sp. nov.**

Cormus ovoideo-oblongus anguste oblongo-ovoideus, 1.4-3.5x4.5-6 cm; tunicae subcoriaceae ad coriaceae, saepe pluristratae (reliquae annorum praecedentium), brunneae ad atro-brunneae, in collum 2-3 cm longum productae. Cataphyllum ca. (3-) 8.5 cm longum, ore valde obliquo. Folia 4-8, synantha, sub anthesi usque ad 13.5 cm longa, floribus distincte superantia, ca. 4-23 mm lata, erecto-patentia ad arcuata, lineari-lanceolata, canaliculata, subacuta ad obtusa, aliquantum cucullata, griseo-virida ad virida, glabra. Flores 3-8; perianthi tubus integer, a cataphyllo 8-10 cm superans, albidus; limbus infundibuliformis; segmenta 22-35x3-6 mm, anguste oblonga ad anguste oblongo-elliptica, subobtusa, albida. Stamina 14-20 mm longa, exteriora a interioribus usque ad 2 mm longiora; filamenta pallide flava, basi inflata,

flavescenti-brunnea; antherae versatiles, 4-4.5 mm longae, flavescenti-brunneae vel brunneae; pollen flavum. Styli stamina superantes, pallide flava; stigmata punctiformia, infuscata. Capsulae subterraneae, 1-2.5x0.5-1.2 cm, oblongo-ellipsoideae ad ellipsoideo-ovoideae, apiculatae pedunculatae. Semina numerosa, 3-4 mm diametro, atrobrunnea, raphibus albidis, filiformibus.

Typus. Chaharmahal-e Bakhtiari: 10 km Shahr-e Kord towards Saman, In stony and sandy hillsides, 2150-2240 m, 22.4.1999, Ghanbari 20097-IRAN (holotypus IRAN); same locality, 3.5.1998 Matin & Ghanbari 20096-IRAN.

Corm ovoid-oblong to narrowly oblong-ovoid, 1.4-3.5x 4.5-6 cm; tunics subcoriaceous to coriaceous, often in several layers (remains from preceding years), brown to dark brown, produced into a neck 2-3 cm long. Cataphyll ca. (3-) 8.5 cm long; mouth very oblique. Leaves 4-8, synanthous, at anthesis extending from cataphyll to 13.5 cm long, distinctly overtopping flowers, ca. 4-23 mm wide, erect-patent to arcuate, linear-lanceolate, channelled, subacute to obtuse, somewhat cucullate, greyish-green to green, glabrous.



Fig. 1. *Colchicum bakhtiaricum*.

Flowers 3-8; perianth tube entire, exceeding the cataphyll by 8-10 cm, whitish; limb infundibuliform; segments 22-35 x 3-6 mm, narrowly oblong to narrowly oblong-elliptic, subobtuse, whitish. Stamens 14-20 mm long, outer up to 2 mm longer than inner ones; filaments yellowish-white, swollen base yellowish-brown; anthers versatile, 4-4.5 mm long, yellow-brown to brown; Pollen yellow. Styles longer than stamens, yellowish white; stigmas punctiform, brownish. Capsules subterranean, 1-2.5x0.5-1.2 cm, oblong-ellipsoid to ellipsoid-ovoid, apiculate, pedicelled; seeds numerous, 3-4 mm in diameter, dark brown; raphe

whitish, filiform.

The new species is most closely related to *C. varians* (Freyn & Bornm.) Czern., but differs from it by having more leaves, the leaves distinctly overtopping flowers, longer perianth tube and pedicelled capsule. It also resembles to *C. schimperi* Janka, but is distinguished from it by having more leaves, shorter neck and shorter cataphyll and longer perianth tube.

Acknowledgment

Thanks are due to M. Mehranfard, the artist of the Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute for preparing the illustration.