

# SPIRAEA SHEIKHII (ROSACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM IRAN

H. Zare

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*Spiraea sheikhii* is described as a new species, from N. Iran. It is well characterized by corymbiform inflorescence, orbicular-ovate leaves, rose petals and densely pilose branches and corymbs. The new species seems to be related to *S. trilobata* and *S. pilosa* and it is compared with them.

Habib Zare, Botanical Garden of Nowshahr, Nowshahr.

Key words. *Spiraea sheikhii*, new species, Iran.

گونه جدید اسپیره (*Spiraea sheikhii*) از شمال ایران

حبیب زارع

گونه *Spiraea sheikhii* به عنوان گونه جدیدی از شمال ایران نامگذاری و شرح داده می‌شود. این گونه به آسانی با گل‌آذین دیهیمی، برگهای دایره‌ای تخم‌مرغی، گلبرگهای صورتی و دیهیم و انشعابات با کرکهای متراکم تمیز داده می‌شود. گونه مذکور با ۲ گونه *S. trilobata* و *S. pilosa* قرابت نزدیکی دارد و بنابراین با آنها مقایسه می‌شود.

### Introduction

Among the plants collected from northern Iran, a *Spiraea* species seemed to be interesting and different from the other known species of Iran, i. e. *S. crenata* L. and *S. hypericifolia* L. (Khatamsaz 1992). Further studies revealed that the plant is a new species which is described from Iran.

### *Spiraea sheikhii* Zare, sp. nov.

Frutex usque ad 160 cm altus; rami pubescentes, hornotini brunei, vetustiores atrobrunei. Folia alterna; petioli 1-5 mm longi, pilosi; laminae 1-3.5x1-3 cm, late ovatae ad ± orbiculares, a medio ad apices dentatae, interdum ± trilobatae, parce pilosae, obtusae vel rotundatae, ad bases rotundatae vel subcordatae. Inflorescentiae terminales corymbosae, dense pilosae; corymbi 1.5-5 cm longi, 2.5-5.5 cm lati, compositi; pedicelli 4-11 mm longi, supra medio bracteati; bracteae 2-3 mm longae, filiformes. Sepala ca. 1.5 mm longa, triangulari-ovata, acuta. Petala ca. 3 mm longa, rosea, orbiculari-ovata, ad margines integra vel ± undulata. Stamina 20, a petali breviori. Folliculi 2-3 mm longi, pilosi; styli 1.1 mm longi, dorsi-terminali.

*Typus.* Iran, Mazandaran: 11 km S. Nowshahr, Chelak mountains, 200-250 m, Zare 5068 (holotypus TARI). -*Paritypus:* the same locality, Zare 5067.

Shrub up to 160 cm high; branches pubescent, brown in current year, dark brown in age. Leaves alternate; petioles 1-5 mm long, hairy; blades 1-3.5x1-3 cm, broadly ovate to ± orbicular, toothed in upper half, sometimes ± trilobed, in upper surface glabrous green with scattered hairs at base and along the nerves; in lower surface glaucous with scattered hairs especially along the nerves, ciliate at the

margin, obtuse or rounded at the apex, rounded or slightly subcordate at base. Inflorescence at the end of branches, corymbiform, densely hairy; corymb 1.5-5 cm long and 2.5-5.5 cm wide, compound; pedicels 4-11 mm long, bracteate above the middle; bract 2-3 mm long, filiform. Sepals ca. 1.5 mm long, triangular-ovate, longer than hypanthium, acute. Petals ca. 3 mm long, rose, orbicular obovate, entire or ± undulate at the margin. Stamens 20, shorter than petals, attached behind and between the 10 brown scales at the base of petals. Follicles ca. 5, 2-3 mm long, hairy; styles 1.1 mm long, dorsally at the apex of follicles. Ovules ca. 4, linear.

*Spiraea sheikhii* is similar to *S. trilobata* L. and *S. pilosa* Franch. It differs from *S. trilobata* by being densely hairy on the corymb and branches (not ± totally glabrous), having not or slightly trilobed leaves (not clearly 3-lobed leaves) and etc. It differs from *S. pilosa* in following characters: height up to 160 cm (not up to 70 cm); leaves up to 3.5 cm long and 3 cm wide (not up to 2 cm long and 1.8 cm wide), nearly glabrous on both surfaces (not densely hairy); flowering branches up to 25 cm (not up to 10 cm and follicles shorter than sepals (not longer). Moreover the new species differs from both species by having clearly branched corymbs (corymbs are not umbelliform or nearly simple). The new species due to its compound corymbs might show some similarities to *S. betulifolia* Pall. and *S. beauverdiana* C. K. Schn. but differs from both mainly in erect sepals and short stamens (not recurved sepals and long stamens twice as long as petals).

The species is named in the honour of Mr. Sheikhii, a plant breeder of mainly exotics.



Fig. 1. *Spiraea sheikhii* ( $\times 0.62$ ); flower and follicle ( $\times 5$ ).