

SALVIA SCLAREOPSIS (LAMIACEAE), A NEW RECORD FOR IRAQ

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Salvia sclareopsis is recorded for the first time for Iraq from Gmo Mountain in Kurdistan region. The species was previously recognized as endemic to Iran. The geographical distribution of the new record and its distinguishing characters are discussed.

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Key words: Gmo Mt.; Iraq; Kurdistan; Lamiaceae; *Salvia*

گونه *Salvia sclareopsis* از تیره نعنائیان، گزارشی جدید برای فلور عراق

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گونه *Salvia sclareopsis* از تیره نعنائیان برای اولین بار از عراق کوه گمو از منطقه کردستان گزارش می‌شود. این گونه قبلاً به عنوان گونه انحصاری

ایران شناخته می‌شد. پراکندگی جغرافیایی گزارش جدید و صفات شاخص آن شرح داده می‌شود.

INTRODUCTION

The first author has been involved in the past two years in intensive floristic studies of Gmo Mountain in partial fulfillment of the requirements for her M.S. degree in botany. This mountain is part of the extensive Zagros Range and is located only about six kilometers from the Iran-Iraq border. No botanist has previously collected in Gmo because it was inaccessible due to its strategic border location. The floristic survey is in progress and when completed will be published elsewhere. Of the several novelties and new records, only the following record in Lamiaceae is dealt with below.

Hedge (1982) reported 23 species of *Salvia* from Kurdistan Iraq, including the endemic *S. kurdica* Boiss. & Hohen. ex Benth. With the addition below of the narrowly endemic *Salvia ali-askaryi* S.A. Ahmad (Ahmad, 2016), the genus is currently represented in

Kurdistan Iraq by 25 species, of which two are endemics.

MATERIALS & METHOD

The plant materials were collected from Gmo Mountain, prepared as herbarium specimens. The materials were identified using Flora Iranica, Flora of Iran and Flora of Iraq. The specimens are deposited in the KBFH, TARI herbaria.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Salvia sclareopsis Bornm. ex Hedge in Rech.f., Fl. Iran. 150: 447. 1982. Fig. 1.

Salvia sclareopsis was validated by Hedge (1982) based on four collections from Kermanshah Province, Iran. The species is currently more widespread than initially reported because Jamzad (2012: 872) cited collections from the Iranian provinces Kurdistan, Ilam,

Lorestan, and Bakhtiari. The present discovery of the species from Gmo Mountain, which is just across the border from Iranian Kurdistan Province, expands the range into adjacent SW Kurdistan of Iraq. The Iraqi plants fit perfectly well the descriptions and images given in both references above, and the only exception

is that the lowermost membranous bracts, particularly the sterile ones, can be up to 5×3.5 cm, and the plants are taller than 27 cm. Therefore, the descriptions and illustrations in the above references, as well as the images in JSTOR (2019), negate the need to re-write the species description here.

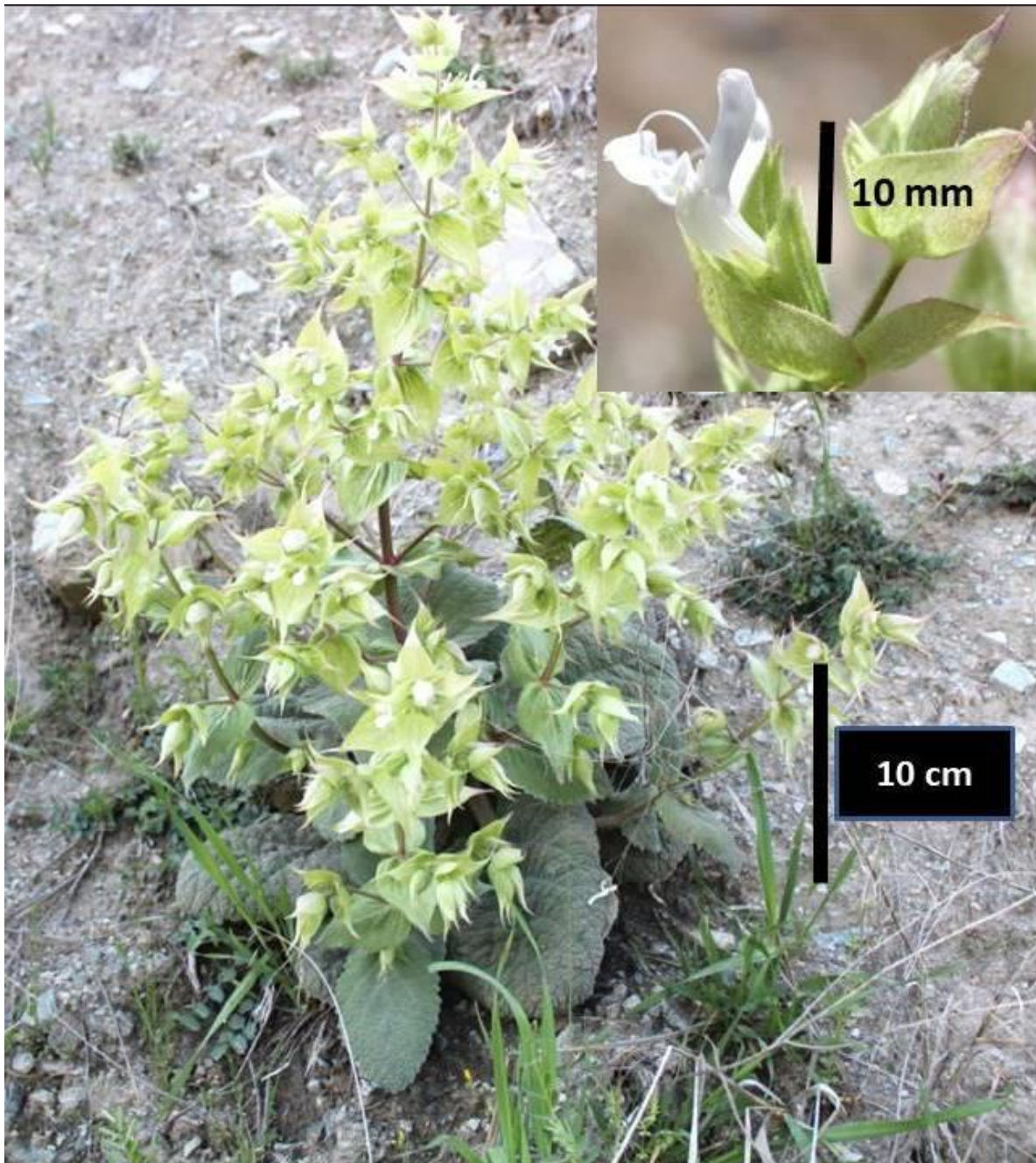


Fig. 1. *Salvia sclareopsis* Bornm. ex Hedge.

This new record for Iraq is based on the following collections:

Specimens examined: Iraq, Kurdistan, Sulaimani Province, Gmo Mt. (all collections): Saraw village, 1646 m, 35°54'20"N, 45°31'44"E, 25 April 2018, *S. Y. Hama & M. Abdulla 2018-466* (KBFH, TARI); near Bewre village, roadsides and orchards, 35°50'00"N, 45°58'00"E, 20 May 2019, *S. Y. Hama, S. A. Ahmad & M. Abdulla 2019-829* (KBFH); Mrrane village, 1621 m, 35°49'48"N, 45°34'47"E, *I. A. Al-Shehbaz, S. Y. Hama, S. A. Ahmad & M. Abdulla 2018-808* (KBFH, TARI).

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