Clematis khuzestanica (Ranunculaceae) A NEW SPECIES FROM SOUTHWEST OF IRAN

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During the working on vegetation of the Khuzestan province, and recently plant collection the author found a small community of Clematis L. in Shalo and Mongasht protected area, beside Shivand seasonal river, this species with special characters, introduced as new species, Clematis khuzestanica from Iran.

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Key words: New species; Ranunculaceae; Dehdez; protected area; Flora of Iran, Khuzestan

INTRODUCTION

Clematis L., containing about 300 species, is one of the largest genera in Ranunculaceae (Ishtiaq ch & al. 2010). It is distinguished from other genera of the family by woody climbing stems (for most Clematis species) and opposite leaves (Xie & al. 2005). Linnaeus (1753) first described nine species of Clematis in his great work Species Plantarum. Rechinger (1992) reported 13 species for Flora Iranica area and 6 species (C. ispahanica Boiss., C. songarica Bunge, C. viticella L., C. orientalis L., C. vitabla L., C. flammula L.) for Iran. Habibi & al. (2014) described C. iranica as a new species from Mazandran (north of Iran). During field investigations in Khuzestan province (Shalo and Mongasht protected area) a small population of Clematis, was discovered on the Mongasht Mountain (Shavand valley). After carefully studying specimens using main flora of neighboring countries and adjacent areas, it is confirmed that this plant represents a distinctive taxonomic entity and thus is described as a new species. Observations and studies showed that this specimen was apparently different.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In a program for the collection of plants and working on vegetation of the Khuzestan province, a comprehensive collection of the flora was implemented. The plant materials were identified using Flora of USSR (Krasheninnkov 1970); Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1992); Flora of West Pakistan (Riedel & al. 1991) and Flora of Iraq (Townsend 1992).
The type specimen is preserved in TARI and Khuzestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education Center Herbarium.

RESULTS

_Clematis khuzestanica_ Dinarvand sp. nov. (figs. 1-3)

*Typus:* Iran: Khuzestan Province, Dehdez, Shivand, Shaloo and Mongasht protected area, 2500-2900 m, Dinarvand, Ahmadi and Kiani, 11125. Date: 6 August 2019 (holotypus TARI, isotypus Khuzestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education Center Herbarium).

Suffruticose, climber, up to 3 m high. Branches dichotomous, with parallel ridges, pubescent. Leaves opposite, ternate, bi-pinnate or simple; leaflets elliptic, ovate or lanceolate, mucronate at the apex, rounded at base, entire, with a few teeth, or 1 or 2 lobed at the margin, 3-4.5 cm long and 1.5-4 cm wide, pubescent on both surfaces; petiole 3-6 cm long, often twisted, pubescent. Flowers nodding, single on ca. 9 cm long pedicels, pale yellow with a pink stain at the base and green above; densely pubescent. Tepals unequal, densely pubescent on both surfaces, lanceolate, acuminate to caudate with a leaf like appendage in the upper half, 12-28 mm long. Stamens numerous, 5-6 mm long; glabrous; anthers linear, brown.

*Habitat:* This species grows beside a seasonal river in the Shivand valley on the Mongasht Mountain, the Mongasht protected area is located in Karon river basin. The area covered with loosed rubbles and unstable gravels.

*Clematis khuzestanica* is morphologically close to _C. orientalis_ but it is distinguished from it by following characters: flowers single, tepals 12-28 mm long, pale yellow with a purple stain at base and green at the top. Leaves ternate, bi-pinnate or simple and elliptic leaflet.

Fig. 1. _Clematis khuzestanica_ in Shivand, Shaloo and Mongasht protected area (Photo by Dinarvand).
Fig. 2. The herbarium specimen of *Clematis khuzestanica*, single flowers on long pedicels (Photo by Dinarvand).

Fig. 3. Unequal tepals of *Clematis khuzestanica* with a leaf like appendage above (photo by Dinarvand).

REFERENCES


