

NEW REPORTS OF THREE ENDANGERED SPECIES OF *CENTAUREA* (SECT. *CYNAROIDEAE*, *ASTERACEAE*) FROM IRAN

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Centaurea gigantea is a new to the flora of Iran. Discription of *Centaurea phlomoides* is completed. Also *Centaurea regia* and *C. phlomoides* is reported as rare plants from West of Iran. Geographical distribution of species are shown.

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Key words. *Centaurea*, *Asteraceae*, Iran.

گزارشی از سه گونه گل گندم (بخش *Centaurea*, sect. *Cynaroideae*) از ایران

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گونه *Centaurea gigantea* از بخش *Cynaroideae* به عنوان گزارشی جدید از جنوب غرب ایران معرفی و شرح گونه دیگری از این بخش به نام *Centaurea phlomoides* (اندمیک ایران) تکمیل می گردد. گونه اخیر و گونه *C. regia* نیز که قبلاً فقط یکبار (نمونه تیپ) به ترتیب توسط هاوسکنخت و اشتراوس جمع آوری شده اند، بازیابی شده، گزارش می شوند. هر سه گونه ذکر شده، از گیاهان نادر ایران هستند و پراکنش آنها منحصر به نواحی محدود در غرب و جنوب غربی است.

Introduction

Based on Wagenitz (1975) research work on Flora Iranica, genus *Centaurea* consists 86 species (including 23 sections) of which 76 are found in Iran. Of this number 32 are endemic species in Iran.

In the course of our research and recent collecting activities in West and Southwest of Iran, we identified 3 interesting *Centaurea* species from the *Cynaroides* section. The first one is *C. gigantea* which has been reported from Iraq (Mousel, Arbil, Suleimanieh, Karkuk and Gharadagh) and Turkey (Hakari region). Our collection of this species in Lorestan province extends its distribution.

The other species is *C. phlomoides* with the geographic distribution confined to a small area around Paveh. It is an endemic of Iran and very likely an endangered species. The description in Flora Iranica (Wagenitz 1980) was based on immature capitulum, and therefore it is completed here.

C. regia is another species with a wider geographic distribution extending from West of Iran to Iraq (region of Musel, Arbil, Karkuk and Soleymanieh) and Turkey. The distribution of this species in Iran is very limited. We collected the

species in Ravansar in Kermanshah province in 1998, but failed to collect it again in 1999. It is very likely that this species is being seriously threatened by extinction.

Centaurea gigantea Schultz-Bip. ex Boiss., Fl. Or. 3: 672 (1875).

Lorestan: between Khorramabad and Sepid-Dasht, 50 km to Sepid-Dasht, 1500 m, Ghahreman & Attar 21840 (TUH).

Habitat. Dry stony plains and margin of fields.

A new record to Iran. Its general distribution is in Iraq, SW Anatoli and Iran.

Centaurea phlomoides Boiss. & Hausskn. in Boiss., Fl. Or. 3: 673 (1875), **descr. compl.**

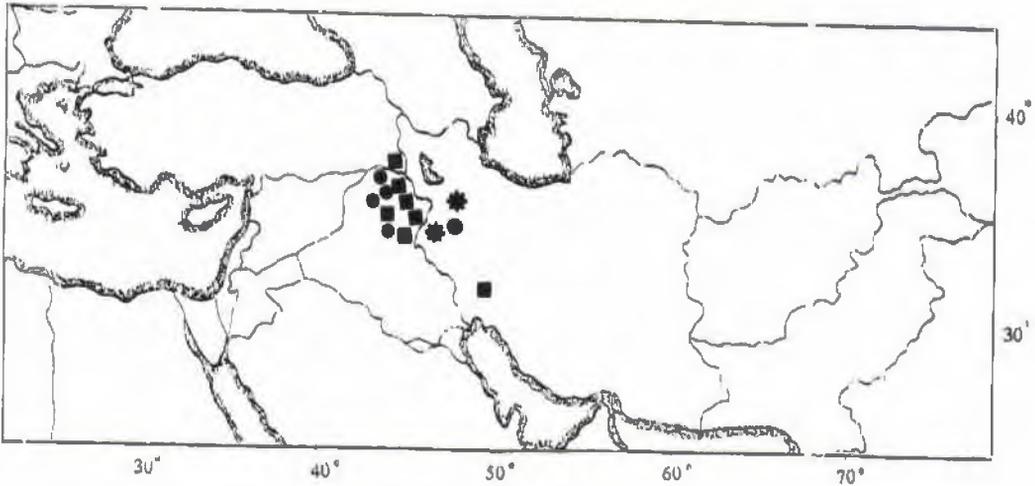
Flores lutei, vix radiantés, laciniis filiformis. Achaenia 9 mm longa, 4-4.5 mm lata, straminea, pilosa; hila lateralia; pappus usque ad 2.5 mm longus, e setis scabris, series intima et externa a ceteris brevior.

Endemic to Iran.

Kermanshah: Paveh, road of Bayangan, 1350 m, Ghahreman & Attar 22588 (TUH); Kermanshah: Paveh, road of Bayangan, 1350m, Attar & Mirtazodini



Fig 1. *Centaurea phlomoides* (x0.6).



Map. 1. Distribution of *Centaurea* species. *C. phlomoides* *; *C. regia* ●; *C. gieguntea* ■

19857 (TUH).

Habitat. stony hills.

This species was gathered once by Haussknecht about 130 years ago on the Avroman mountains in West of Iran.

Centaurea regia Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Or. Nov. Ser. 1, 6: 135 (1845).

subsp. **regia**

Kermanshah: between Kermanshah and Ravansar, 5 km to Ravansar, 1700 m, Ghahreman and Attar, 20565 (TUH).

Habitat. margin of fields.

This species was once collected by Strausse on the Shahu mountains

(Kermanshah province) in Iran. General distribution of species is in West of Iran and Iraq.

Acknowledgment

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References

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