

NOTES ON THE GENUS *CARALLUMA* R. BR. (ASCLEPIADACEAE) IN IRAN

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The genus *Caralluma* represents in Iran by two indigenous species: *C. edulis* and *C. tuberculata*. Formerly only *Caralluma edulis* had been recorded from Iran. But a trip to the locality given for *C. edulis* in literature revealed that record of *C. edulis* in reality has been based on the specimen of *C. tuberculata*. Therefore the name *C. tuberculata* is used for the first time from Iran and *C. edulis* is recorded for the first time from Iran, correctly. A key to the species is given and the specimens seen by the author are mentioned.

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بررسی جنس *Caralluma* در ایران

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از جنس *Caralluma* در ایران ۲ گونه به نامهای *C. edulis* (با نام محلی هوتک و آپی تک) و *C. tuberculata* (با نام محلی مغ مار و مارموتک) تشخیص داده می شود. قبلاً در منابع مختلف فقط گونه *C. edulis* از ایران گزارش شده بود. ولی با حضور در رویشگاه ذکر شده برای گونه *C. edulis* چنین نتیجه گیری شد که گزارش *C. edulis* در ایران به طور اشتباه و براساس نمونه های *C. tuberculata* بوده است. بنابراین گونه *C. edulis* در واقع برای اولین بار به طور صحیح از ایران گزارش می شود. کلید شناسایی گونه ها ارائه و نمونه های دیده شده ذکر می گردد. هر ۲ گونه از مناطق جنوبی ایران جمع آوری شده اند.

Introduction

In a revision of the genus *Caralluma* R. Br. in Iran, herbarium materials were studied. The herbarium specimens had been named *C. edulis* (Edgew.) Benth. Further investigations revealed that these specimens are in reality *C. tuberculata* N. E. Brown and not *C. edulis*. Moreover, in Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1970) only *C. edulis* has been included. In at rip to the single Iranian locality of the species, herbarium materials were collected, but they were obviously *C. tuberculata*. However, true *C. edulis* also were collected in a completely different habitat both in Hormozgan and Baluchistan provinces. In this paper notes are given for the two species and a key is prepared for them.

Caralluma edulis (Edgew.) Benth.-Fig. 1
Baluchistan: 95 km from Chahbahar to Iranshahr, Islamabad village, 170 m, Zaeifi & al. 75908; 100 km from Chahbahar to Iranshahr, Ghabulani village, 150 m, Zaeifi & al. 75909. -Hormozgan: Bandarabbas, Chahfaleh, 50 m, Zaeifi 20450; Bandarabbas, between Chahfaleh and Gowdov, 20 m, Zaeifi & Hajebi 2044.

Caralluma edulis was recorded in Flora

Iranica (Rechinger l. c.) from Iran by a single specimen. This specimen obviously has not been seen by the author of Flora Iranica. The specimen was not traceable, but in the same locality only *C. tuberculata* was collected. Therefore, the identification of the above mentioned specimen is questionable and most probably, it should be in reality *C. tuberculata*.

C. edulis has local names of Howtak and Apitak in S. Iran. It is distributed from India through Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran to Arabia. It grows on dunes, in young stage edible.

Caralluma tuberculata N. E. Brown.
-Fig. Ghahrem, Fl. de l'Iran, Plate 1408 under the name *C. edulis*.
Baluchistan: Saravan, Bamposht, Mindar, 1470 m, Zaeifi & al. 75910. -Hormozgan: Genu mt., 1320 m, Zaeifi & al. 75915; 50 km N. W. of Hajiabad, Tang-e Ghuchan, 1500 m, Zaeifi & Assadpour 2047; Bandarabbas, S. side of Kuh-e Genu, 1000-1300 m, Wendelbo & Foroughi 15544; Bandarabbas, Fareghan, 1350-1600 m, Mozaffarian 44843; 22 km N. of Qotabad, S. side of tunnle, 1200-1250 m, Wendelbo & Foroughi 15782. -Kerman: 122 km from Hajiabad, on the road to Esfandagheh, Abdasht, Assadi 25278.

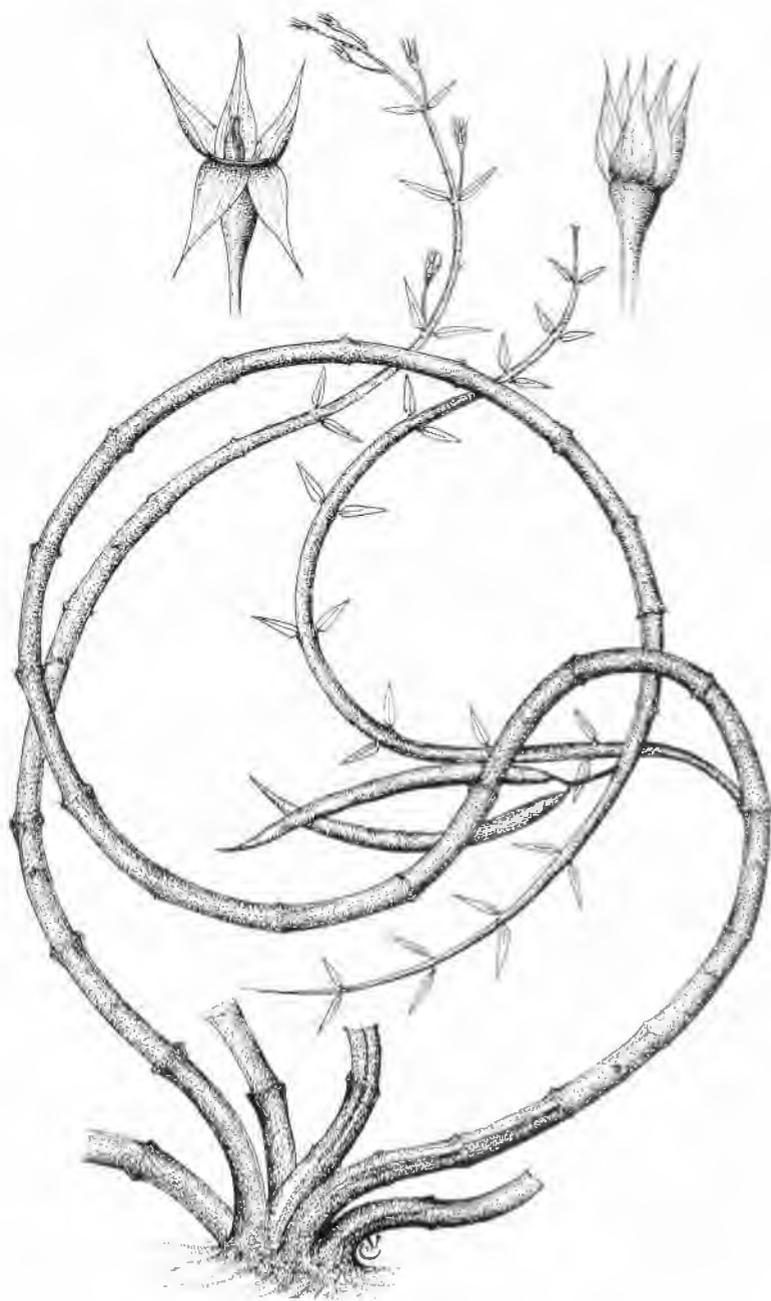


Fig. 1. *Caralluma edulis* ($\times 0.56$) ; flower ($\times 2.8$)

The name *Caralluma tuberculata* is used for the first time from Iran. It is locally named Mogh-e mar and Marmutk. It is distributed from Pakistan, Punjab and Baluchistan to S. Iran.

It grows on rocky mountains or stony slopes.

Key to the species

1. Stem tapering toward the apex,

subterete, 60 cm long or more.

Flowers axillary, on long pedicels

C. edulis

- Stem angular, 15 cm long. Flowers terminal *C. tuberculata*

Reference

- Rechinger, K. H. 1970: *Caralluma* in K. H. Rechinger Fl. Iranica no. 73. -Graz.