A NEW RECORD AND INTERESTING SPECIES OF CYPERACEAE FAMILY FROM IRAN

M. Amini Rad


Cyperus pannonicus as a new record for the flora of Iran and Eleocharis argyrolepis as its second collection from W. Azerbaijan province are reported. Morphological characters, habitat, geographical distribution in the world and Iran are also presented.

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Keywords. Cyperus, Eleocharis, new record, Iran.

Cyperus pannonicus

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Introduction

The author has been studying Cyperaceae family in Iran since 2000. In the expedition to W. Azerbaijan province, Cyperus pannonicus as a new record from Iran and Eleocharis argyrolepis as a new collecting species are reported.

Cyperus pannonicus Jacq.

Azerbaijan: N. of Oromiyeh Lake, Bandar-Sharafkhaneh, Amini Rad & Eskandari 35812. Perennial, tufted. Stem base ascending. Leaves shorter than stem. Inflorescence capitate, terminal; bracts 2-3, foliose. Spikes ovoid, some curved; glumes 2-2.5 mm, back and apex rounded. Stamens 3. Stigma 2. Nut lenticular, brown. (Fig. 1)

The diagnostic characters between this species and two other species (C. laevigatus L. and C. distachyos All.) from subgen. Juncellus are presented in Table 1.

In Flora Iranica, this species has been reported from Talish and Turcomonia (obviously, the author of Flora Iranica has not seen the specimen but he had reported it according to Grossh. and Egorova), therefore, it is the first report from Iran (see Kukkonen 1998).

This species grows in salty soil near the sea shore.

General distribution. Europe, Turkey, Talish, Turcomonia, Uzbekistan to Kirghizia and Iran.

Eleocharis argyrolepis Kierulff

Azerbaijan: 12 km from Makou to Tabriz, 1020 m, Amini Rad & Torabi 50609. Perennial, tufted. Rhizome creeping. Spikes 10-20 x 3-5 mm, ovoid. Perianth bristles 4, equal or longer than nut. Nut 1.2-1.5 x 0.9-1.1 mm, brown, stylopodium 0.5-0.7 x 0.7-0.9 mm, yellow, deeply distinguish from nut (Fig. 2).

Kukkonen (1972) collected this specimen from Iran in the expedition to West-Central Asia. Revising the herbaria (iran and TARI herbaria), no specimen was found, while author collected it from the same place after about 33 years.

This species is morphologically similar to E. palustris (L.) Roemer & Schultes subsp. palustris in the same size and inflorescence form; but important differences are as follows, in E. argyrolepis, stem is strongly nerved, glume margins are widely scarious and stylopodium is wider than long.

Habitat. in salt marshes and marshlands.

General distribution. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Caucasus, Turcomonia, Uzbekistan, Kirgizia, Tadjikistan and Iran.
Table 1. The diagnostic characters between species of Cyperus subgen. Juncellus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>C. pannonicus</th>
<th>C. laevigatus</th>
<th>C. distachyos</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant</td>
<td>tufted</td>
<td>Stem in rows</td>
<td>Stem in rows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stem</td>
<td>decumbent</td>
<td>erect</td>
<td>erect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhizome</td>
<td>short</td>
<td>creeping</td>
<td>creeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflorescence</td>
<td>capitate</td>
<td>pseudo-lateral</td>
<td>pseudo-lateral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bracts</td>
<td>2-3</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>1 or 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The lowest bract</td>
<td>With basal part expanded</td>
<td>basal part not expanded</td>
<td>basal part not expanded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spike number</td>
<td>6-12</td>
<td>6-20</td>
<td>2-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nut size</td>
<td>1.7-1.9 mm</td>
<td>1.3-1.5 mm</td>
<td>1.4-1.7 mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledgments
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References
Fig. 1. Cyperus pannonicus. A. habit, B. spike x 7, C. glume x 14, D. nut x 14.
Fig. 2. *Eleocharis argyrolepis*. A. habit, B. spike x 5.5, C. glume x 15, D. nut x 15.