NOTES ON THE TRIBE SOPHOREAE (PAPILIONACEAE) IN IRAN

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Reviewing the tribe Sophoreae in Iran, Sophora mollis subsp. sylvestris as a new subspecies is described from SW. and central Iran. It is distinguished from the other subspecies of Sophora mollis by having differences in vegetative and generative characteristics such as size, color and number of leaflet, hairs, petal size and finally fruit shape.

Moreover, Ammodendron persicum Bunge ex Boiss. as a forenamed species from flora of Iran had an incomplete botanial description which is revised and completed in present report. The study indicates that the species is an endemic shrub which is distributed on border region of Iran and Afghanistan located in East of Ghaen in Khorassan province and East of Khash in Sistan & Baluchestan province.

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Introduction

Reviewing the plant tribe Sophoreae for the Flora of Iran, a new subspecies of Sophora mollis (Royle) Baker in Hooker f. was identified which is described in present paper. Also Ammodendron persicum Bunge ex Boiss. as a forenamed species of Iran in Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1984) and Flora Orientalis (Boissier 1872) with imperfect description and uncertain localities, is identified carefully and its description is completed in this study.

Sophora mollis subsp. sylvestris M. Abbassi, subsp. nov.

Frutex 0.5-1.5 m altus, ramis mollis, pubescentibus. Foliola (2-) 5-9 (-14) juga, (4-) 8-13 (-25) * (3-) 5-8 (-20) mm, concolora, sericea. Corolla lutea, fragrans; vexillum 13-18*20-22 mm, ungue 5-7 mm longo, attenuato; alae 6-7*8-21 mm, ungue 4-5 mm longo; carina 6-7*16-18 mm, ungue ±5 mm longo. Leumen 4-6 mm longum, lomentaceum, moniliforme, qudrilatum, pubescens; semina saepe 1-2. Typus. Chaharmahal Bakhtiari: SW Shahr-e Kord, between Dopolan and Dorak near Berenjegan. 1280 m. Abbassi & Amirabadizadeh. 6705 (holotypus TARI).

Shrub ca. 0.5-1.5 m. high. Leaves imparipinnate; leaflets 5-9 and rarely 2-14 pairs; blades (4-) 8-13 (25) * (3-) 5-8 (-20) mm. light green, same color on both surfaces in mature stage, covered with silvery appressed hairs; hairs after flowering in lower surface
denser than the upper one. Corolla yellow; petals fragrant; standard 20-22*13-18 mm. in dimension, claw 5-7 mm. long, gradually attenuated downwards; wings 18-21*6-7 mm. claw 4-5 mm. long; keels 16-18*6-7 mm. claw ca. 5 mm. long. Fruit 4-6 mm. long, moniliform, hairy, with four wings, bearing mostly 1-2 seeds. Flowering season late winter to early spring.

World distribution: Endemic.

Iran distribution: Central and SW, in forests and mountain regions of mainly Zagros.

The subspecies is distinguished from the other subspecies of Sophora mollis i.e. subsp. mollis and subsp. griffithii (Stocks) Ali by having leaves with generally 5-9 and rarely 2-14 pairs of leaflets, leaflets hairy, light green and same color on both surfaces in mature stage, larger petals and hairy fruits with four wings.

**Ammodendron persicum Bunge ex Boiss.**

Shrub, up to 2.5 m. high; juvenile branches covered with silvery hairs; adult branches subglabrous, yellow to brownish yellow. Leaves 10-45 cm. long with a midrib ended to spine; leaflets mostly 2 and rarely 1-3 pairs, (7-)20-40*1-2 mm. in dimension, ended to minute spine, linear-acicular, attenuated at the base, hairy on both surfaces; hairs silky-tomentose, mostly denser at lower surface; stipules 2, 1-10 mm. long spiny, deciduous. Inflorescence raceme, 3-7 cm. long. Pedicel up to 10 mm. long, hairy. Calyx 4-5 mm. long, shortly campanulate, hairy; teeth shorter than half of calyx tube. Corolla glabrous, violet; standard 6-7.5*5.5-6 mm. in dimension, reniform, emarginated, reflexed; claw ca. 2.5 mm. long, attenuated gradually downward; wings 7-9*4.5 mm., oblique rectangle, auriculate; claw 2.5-3 mm. long; keels 8-9.5*4-4.5 mm. in dimension. Stamens free, unequal, basifixed. Ovarium hairy with a short stalk; style curved; stigma nodal. Legumen 20-30 * 5-15 mm. in dimension, flat, long elliptic, spiral, winged, yellowish brown, bearing 1-3 seeds. Seeds 4.5-5x3-3.5 mm in dimension, oval to elliptic, asymmetric, glabrous, without appendages, light brown; hillum round, pit shaped, located on one side of ventral line.

Flowering season early to mid spring.

World distribution: Endemic.

Iran distribution: E and SE, in border regions of Iran and Afghanistan on sandy soils.

**Ammodendron conollyi** Bunge ex Boiss. is distinguished from A. persicum by having only a pair of leaflets which are broader. It was recorded from Balochistan province by Rechinger (1984). Specimens from this locality and the type locality of A. persicum were studied. They match very well and should be conspecific. Therefore, A. conollyi should be excluded for the flora of Iran and A. persicum is the only species occur in Iran. A. corollyi is restricted to Central Asia.

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**References**


Fig. 1. *Sophora mollis* subsp. *sylvestris* (x1).