TRIGONELLA CAERULEA (FABACEAE), AN AROMATIC PLANT FROM ARDABIL PROVINCE, IRAN

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Trigonella caerulea (L.) Ser is an annual plant growing as a wild species of Fabaceae family in Iran. This wild fenugreek is described and illustrated for the first time from Ardabil province. In addition, the chromosome numbers of Trigonella caerulea was counted for the first time in Iran. The result showed that the plant is a diploid with 2n = 16.

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Key words. Trigonella caerulea, Fabaceae, new record, chromosome number, Ardabil, Iran.

Introduction

There are approximately 25 species of fenugreeks (Trigonella spp.) in Iran (Web 2008; Rechinger 1984). Trigonella caerulea (L.) Ser in DC. is distributed throughout the European part of Russia, Ukraine, Crimea, Moldova and Caucasus (Ivimey-Cook 1968; Grossheim 1952). This species prefers ruderal places. It grows among bushes, along roads and in fields. It is a forage and aromatic plant. Young seedlings are eaten with oil and salt. The leaves and young plants are eaten cooked (Facciola 1990). Trigonella caerulea was not included in Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1984) but the plant was collected in Iran and therefore this record is a new to Flora Iranica area. Chromosome number report is based on the chromosome count of Iranian material.

Trigonella caerulea (L.) Ser. In DC. (family: Fabaceae, tribe: Trifolieae).

Ardabil: around Shorabil lake and Shamasbi, between Ardabil and Sarabm, 1380 m, Badrzadeh 2501 (herbarium of the university of Mohaghegh Ardabili).

References

Fig. 1. Plant parts of *Trigonella caerulea*. A) root, B) hollow stems, C) inflorescence, flowers and leaves, D) immature fruits, E) mature fruits and F) seeds.
Fig. 2. Somatic metaphase chromosomes of *Trigonella caerulea* stained in aceto-iron-hematoxilin (2n=16).
