

An Interesting Re-collection of *Halopeplis amplexicaulis* (Vahl) Ung.-Sternb. from Turkey

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Abstract: The presence of *Halopeplis amplexicaulis* (Vahl) Ung.-Sternb. in Turkey is confirmed.

Key Words: *Halopeplis amplexicaulis*, Chenopodiaceae, Turkey

Halopeplis amplexicaulis (Vahl) Ung.-Sternb. Türünün Türkiye'deki Varlığının Teyidi

Özet: Burada Türkiye Florasında kaydı şüpheli olan *Halopeplis amplexicaulis* (Vahl) Ung.-Sternb. türünün varlığı teyit edilmiştir.

Anahtar Sözcükler: *Halopeplis amplexicaulis*, Chenopodiaceae, Türkiye

Introduction

The genus *Halopeplis* Bunge ex Ung.-Sternb. consists of 3 species. *H. perfoliata* (Forssk.) Schweinf. et Asch. is a perennial species distributed on the shores of the Red Sea, and the coasts of Yemen, Oman, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, South Iran, and Pakistan (Freitag, 1991). *H. pygmaea* (Pall.) Bunge ex Ung.-Sternb. is an annual species distributed in Ciscaucasia, South Iraq, Iran, the lowlands of Central Asia and China (Hedge, 1997). *H. amplexicaulis* (Vahl) Ung.-Sternb. (Chenopodiaceae) is an annual halophytic species that is widespread throughout the countries of the Mediterranean (Blanche & Molero, 1987; Tremblin, 2000).

Halopeplis amplexicaulis was recorded in the 19th century by Balansa from the mouth of the Cydnus (Tarsus Çayı Ağızı), Tarsus, Turkey (Aellen, 1967). Since then it has not been re-collected in Turkey. Recent searches at various localities at the mouth of the Tarsus river failed to locate it: at Mersin-Tarsus; Tarsus Plajı, Alifaklı Çorağı, Egemen Çorağı, Adana-Karataş; Akyatan Lagoon, Mersin; Silifke, Göksu Delta in July, August, November

2000, October 2002, October 2003 and November 2004. Finally and surprisingly, far from the Mersin area, it was collected in 2004 near İzmir (A.E. Yaprak 2004-84).

Results and Discussion

It was collected from salty bare sediments in İzmir, Çiğli, Çamaltı Tuzlası, Kuşçenneti. The population consisted of about 50 individuals. Turkish individuals of the species differ from the description in the Flora of Turkey in being up to 24 cm tall. A picture of the species from its habitat is given in Figure 1. Possibly, the species is extinct at the mouth of the Cydnus (Tarsus Çayı Ağızı) because of the loss of habitat. The region used to be a muddy salt marsh, but *Eucalyptus* was planted there in 1939 to form the largest artificial forest in Turkey.

The Red Data Book of Turkish Plants considered the species to be in danger of becoming extinct, category EN (Ekim et al., 2000). Because the species is adapted to extreme halophytic micro-habitats, any changes in those habitats could result in extinction.



Figure 1. A picture of *Halopeplis amplexicaulis* in its habitat (seashore).

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