

A new record for the flora of Turkey: *Lathyrus atropatanus* (Leguminosae)

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Lathyrus atropatanus (Grossh.) Širj. in Bull. Soc. Bot. Bulgar. VI, 62 (1934).

= Syn:++ *Orobis atropatanus* Grossh. in Fl. Cauc., II, 375 (1939).

Endemic *L. atropatanus* (Flora Azerbaijania 5: t 50, 1954) and *L. nivalis* Hand.-Mazz. identified in Nakhichevan, Southern Transcaucasia, are very similar to each other; they are even thought to be synonyms (Davis, 1970). It was collected from Van Province in 2008. *L. atropatanus* is different from *L. nivalis* mainly in its dense adpressed indumentum. First attempts were made to identify the collected samples using *Flora of Turkey* (Davis, 1970; Davis et al., 1988; Güneş & Özhatay, 2000). According to the identification based on the *Flora of Russia* (Komarov, 1948), it was concluded that it is *L. atropatanus*, recorded for the flora of Turkey for the first time. New records and new taxa of articles have increased with revision studies recently (Aytaç & Duman, 2010; Kürşat et al., 2011, Özhatay et al., 2011).

Lathyrus atropatanus is closely related to *Lathyrus nivalis*. It differs from the latter in having the leaflets (5-)11-28 × 1-4 mm (not 15-63 × 1-5), stipules 5-15(-20) × (0.5-)1-3 mm (not 5-25(-27) × 0.5-5), peduncle 3.3-10 mm (not 4.1-20.6), flower length (15-)20-26(-27) mm (not 18-24), flower purple-dark blue (not violet or lilac), wings whitish or clear white (not whitish), calyx hairy, (6-)7-8 mm (not glabrous, 6-10), seeds prolate, P/E = 1.43 (not prolate, P/E = 1.52), pollen shape subprolate, P/E = 1.30 (not spheroidal, P/E = 1.12), pollen P × E = 42.07 × 32.34 µm (not P × E = 39.00 × 34.84),

chromosome number and types 2n = 14, m,m,m,m,sm,m,m (not 2n = 14, m,m,m,sm,m,m,m).

Specimens examined: B9 Van: Mount Pirreşit, above Gündüzlü village, steppe, 2350 m, 26.06.1997, F.Özgökçe (VANF 3363); Mount Pirreşit, north slopes, steppe, 2000 m, 30.06.1998, M.Ünal (VANF 2265); Between Güzelsu and Başkale, Güldere pass, 2600 m, 10.06.2001, M.Armağan (VANF 1297); Gürpınar, above Sapakonak village, rocky slopes, steppe, 2400 m, 03.07.2001, M.Ünal (VANF 5161); Mount Pirreşit slopes, above Gündüzlü village, 2704 m, 38°90'941"N; 43°91'527"E, 12.06.2008, F.Güneş 1836; Van-Hakkari road, Güzeldere pass, behind the military care building, 2370 m, 14.06.2008, 38°11'334"N; 43°54'387"E, F.Güneş 1848 & M.Armağan; Gürpınar-Kırkgeçit road, Sapakonak village, slopes above village, 2653 m, 38°20'715"N; 43°60'980"E, 14.06.2008, F.Güneş 1849 & M.Armağan.

Habitat and conservation status

It grows on mountain slopes, steppes, usually on limestone, unproductive slopes, and highlands, 2000-2704 m. Its natural habitat is under threat due to over-grazing. Therefore, it is recommended to be classified as Critically Endangered (CR) (IUCN, 2001).

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