A NEW RECORD, GALATELLA LITVINOVII (ASTERACEAE) FROM IRAN, N KHORASSAN PROVINCE

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For the genus Galatella Cass. only one species (G. punctata) was reported from NW Iran (Eastern Azerbaijan province) in Flora Iranica treatment based on three specimens. Galatella litvinovii Novopokr. is recorded here from Iran (N. Khorassan province) for the first time. The species was formerly endemic for the Central Asia (Turkmenistan and Kirgizstan).

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Key words. Galatella, G. litvinovii, Iran, Khorassan province, new record.

Introduction

The genus Galatella Cass., with a distribution range from South and Central Europe to considerable parts of Asia (Shishkin 1959) consists only one species in Flora Iranica treatment (Grierson & Rechinger 1982), G. punctata (Waldst. & Kit.) Nees, distributed in W Iran. This species was recorded only from three localities in eastern Azerbaijan province, Iran. The species is widely distributed from Central Asia to W Iran. During studies on the flora of Darkest area and around it, in N. Khorassan province we found some specimens of the genus Galatella that were different from G. punctata. The specimens belong to Galatella litvinovii Novopokr. This species was distributed exclusively in Central Asia, Turkmenistan and Kirgizstan (Shishkin 1959). Therefore our specimens increase range of distribution of Iran.

Galatella litvinovii Novopokr. in Tr. Bot. Inst. AN SSSR, ser. 1, 7 (1948) 130. Fig. 1, 2. Specimens seen. Iran, Khorassan province: Bojnord, between Darkest and Havar, 1500 m, 28.09.2004, Joharchi & Aydani 35738 (FUMH, FAR).

Perennial, 30-100 cm high. Stem solitary or numerous, erect. Leaves oblong to linear-lanceolate, to 8 cm long. Heads in slightly loose, rarely rather dense, with 14-20 florets, 8-10 mm long. Involucres obconical; bracts light-yellowish-green with darker greenish middle nerve, dorsally subglabrous. Ligulate florets 4-8 in number. Achene 3-4 mm long. Pappus 6-7 mm long.

An identification key of the genus Galatella in Iran

1. The inner most involucre bracts attenuate-acuminate at apex, pappus 6-7 mm long, ligulate florets light pinkish-violet (NE. Iran)................. Galatella litvinovii + The inner most involucre bracts blunt or obtuse at apex, pappus 4.5-6 mm long, ligulate florets pinkish-violet (NW. Iran) ................. Galatella punctata

References

Fig. 1. Galatella litvinovii.