

A NEW RECORD OF THE GENUS *VITIS* (VITACEAE) FOR THE FLORA OF IRAN

M. Dinarvand, H. Ejtehadi, M. Jankju and B. Andarzian

Received 2015.07.27; accepted for publication 2015.08.19

Dinarvand, M., H. Ejtehadi, M. Jankju and B. Andarzian 2015.12.31: A new record of the genus *Vitis* (Vitaceae) for the flora of Iran. – *Iran. J. Bot.* 21 (2):100-102. Tehran.

The specimens of *Vitis hissarica* Vass. subsp. *rechingeri* Vass. were collected for the first time in Shimbar Protected Area in Khuzestan Province of Iran. This species is widely grown in wetland and is recorded for the flora of Iran.

Mehri Dinarvand, Hamid Ejtehadi (correspondence <hejtehadi@um.ac.ir>) & Mohammad Jankju, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran.- Bahram Andarzian, Research Center of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Khuzestan, Iran.

Keywords: *Vitaceae*; *Vitis*; New record; Shimbar Protected area; Iran

گزارش گونه جدیدی از جنس *Vitis* متعلق به تیره *Vitaceae* برای فلور ایران

مهري دیناروند، دانشجوی دکتری اکولوژی گیاهی، دانشگاه فردوسی مشهد.

حمید اجتهادی، استاد دانشگاه فردوسی مشهد

محمد جنکجو، دانشیار دانشگاه فردوسی مشهد

بهرام اندرزیان، استادیار مرکز تحقیقات کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی خوزستان

طی مطالعه پوشش گیاهی منطقه حفاظت شده شیمبار توابع اندیکای استان خوزستان، گونه *Vitis hissarica* Vass subsp. *rechingeri* برای اولین بار به صورت خودرو در تالاب مشاهده شد و به عنوان رکوردی جدید برای فلور ایران معرفی می شود.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Vitis* from Vitaceae family includes 60 species distributed in the northern hemisphere, particularly in China, Japan and North-America (Townsend and Guest 1980). Vassilczenko (1970) in the Flora Iranica area has reported three species of *Vitis*: *Vitis vinifera* L. as a cultivated plant, *V. sylvestris* with two subspecies namely subsp. *anebophylla* Kolen. and subsp. *trichophylla* Kolen. as wild species from northern provinces of Iran and *V. hissarica* with two subspecies from Afghanistan (subsp. *hissarica*) and Iraq (subsp. *rechingeri* Vassilcz.). These three species have also been reported in the Flora of Iraq (Critopoulos 1980). It is noted that the species *V. sylvestris* grows on stony or steep rocky limestone slopes, rocky gorges and on shady sandstone rocks, often by streams, in oak or pine forest habitat. *V. hissarica* has been seen in the mountains, near streams in oak forest and climbing over shrubs in riparian

thickets. Shimbar Protected area habitat is very similar to that of *V. hissarica* habitat. The vegetation is an oak forest with some riparian thickets (Shimbar Wetland) of *Populus euphratica* Olivier, *Rubus sanctus* Schreber, *Tamarix ramosissima* Ledeb. and *V. hissarica* Vass. is climbing over these shrubs. According to Sosnovskii (1974) in Flora of U. S. S. R., *V. hissarica* has been reported as a native species for the Central Asia.

The specimens of *Vitis hissarica* Vass. subsp. *rechingeri* Vass. were collected for the first time, when doing PhD thesis project of the first author, in Shimbar Protected area in Khuzestan Province and is recorded for the first for the flora of Iran

Vitis hissarica Vass. In Sbornik referatov nauch.- issl. Rab. Vyp. 1945.

subsp. *rechingeri* Vass. In Fl. Iranica. 74: 2 (1970).

Specimen examined: Khuzestan Province: Andica, Shimbar protected area, 1000 m, Dinarvand &

Mohamadi. 9027 (TARI and Research Center of Agriculture & Natural Resources of Khuzestan Herbarium).

Deciduous, woody climber. Stems brown. Leaves simple, palmately 3-5 lobed, orbicular, 6-12 cm, glabrous or glabrescent, subcordate or reniform at base; lobes irregularly toothed at margins; petiole 5-8 cm

long; with a coiling of leaf opposed tendrils. Inflorescence raceme. Flowers bisexual; pedicels 3-4 mm long. Calyx and petals soon falling together. Stamens filiform, 1 mm long. Ovary 1-1.5 mm long. Berry globose, less than 1 cm, green to purple. Seeds oblong to ellipsoid, 5-7 mm long, gradually tapering to 1 mm long rostellum (figs. 1-3)



Fig. 1. *Vitis hissarica* subsp. *Rechingeri* (Photo by Dinarvand).



Fig. 2. *Vitis hissarica*. subsp. *rechingeri* climbing over shrubs (Photo by Dinarvand).



Fig 3. A general view of Shimbar Protected area with *V. hissarica* subsp. *rechingeri* (Photo by Dinarvand).

Vitis hissarica Vass. subsp. *rechingeri* Vass. is similar to *Vitis vinifera* L. but is native. Leaves subcordate or reniform at base, and it has smaller berry, hard seeds and unlike *V. vinifera* L., its taste is not sweet. Other species of Iran plate are *Vitis sylvestris* C. C. Gmel. and *V. nuristanica* Vassilcz. *Vitis sylvestris* C. C. Gmel. with unisexual flowers and subrotund seeds and *V. nuristanica* Vassilcz. from Afganistan and Pakistan with oblong berry are distinct from *V. hissarica* subsp. *rechingeri* Vass.

The specimen is in the distribution area of subsp. *rechingeri* and therefore is named so. But, as characters are not quite clear to distinguish it from the typical subspecies, further studies are needed to clear taxonomic position of the two subspecies.

Distribution: Iraq and Iran.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Special thanks go to Mr. Adel Molla from Environmental Research, Mr. Ghasem Ghafeli for his helps during the field work .

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