Scorzonera incisa (Asteraceae), as a new record from NW Iran

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Abstract. Scorzonera incisa, known as an endemic plant to Turkey, has been collected from West Azarbayejan Province, NW. Iran. The species is reported for the first time from the country; it is very similar to Scorzonera calyculata, which is distributed in the western half of Iran and east of Iraq. However, with regard to the particular shape of the achenes of Scorzonera incisa, this species could be separated from Scorzonera incisa. In this paper, the description, the image of the herbarium sample and the distribution map of this species are presented.

Keywords. Compositae, Iran’s flora, Lactuceae, plant taxonomy, West Azarbayejan
INTRODUCTION
The author has worked on the project "Flora of Iran (Asteraceae, Lactuceae)" in the herbarium of the Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (TARI) since 1998. During a scientific excursion in 2003, a new record species of *Scorzonera* L. was collected from West Azarbeyjan Mountains, in NW Iran. Since the genus *Scorzonera* was revised by Rechinger (1977) in the “Flora Iranica”, two new species (Safavi, 2006a & 2016) and one new variety to the world (Safavi, 2006b) as well as two species as new records (Dyanat-Nejad et al. 1998; Safavi, 2004) have been added to the flora of Iran.

MATERIALS AND METHODS
During the work on the taxonomy of *Lactuceae* tribe in Iran, some specimens of *Scorzonera* were collected from West Azarbeyjan Province in NW Iran and deposited in TARI by the author. After a thorough determination of the specimens, a new record of *Scorzonera* from Iran was recognized. The new record was compared with a large number of specimens belonging to the *Scorzonera* species deposited in the herbaria of TARI and the Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection (IRAN); it was also compared with the published descriptions of *Scorzonera* species in the flora of Iran and neighboring countries (Chamberlain, 1975; Lipschits, 1964; Rechinger, 1955, 1977; Safavi et al. 2013). After a careful consideration, it was concluded that the specimen was a new record for the flora of Iran, belonging to the *Scorzonera incisa* DC.

**Fig.1.** *Scorzonera incisa* DC. (Safavi & Nikchehreh 86132, TARI).
RESULTS

New Record to Iran

Scorzonera incisa DC. Iran. West Azarbeyjan: Makou, Chaldoran to Khoj, Mahlamlou, 4 Km on the road from Navar to Yekmaleh, N: 38º 54′ 09″; E: 44º 14′ 09″, 2451 m., 28 Jun 2003, Rocky slopes, Safavi & Nikchehreh 86132 (TARI) (Figs. 1 & 2).

Erect caulescent perennial 20-40 cm; rootstock cylindrical. Basal leaves dentate to pinnatifid entire, 10-23×2.4-8 cm, stem leaves at most half size of basal leaves. Capitula 1-2-(4) (-many) per stem, (35-) 40-50 mm long. Inner phyllaries 25 mm. Flowers yellow with dark purple tube. Achenes 12-17 mm, deeply sulcate, with warty wings, sometimes swollen above base (galled) so appearing pyriform and stipitate, glabrous; pappus dirty white, hairs short and plumose or longer, barbellate above and plumose below.

Habitat: Mountainous steppe and Rocky slopes and cliffs, 800 to 2800 m.

Distribution: Subendemic of Turkey, with one record from NW. Iran, An Ir.-Tur. element (Fig 3).

Fig. 2. Scorzonera incisa DC. Achene & Capitule, (Safavi & Nikchehreh 86132, TARI)

Fig. 3. Distribution of Scorzonera incisa DC. in Iran (●)
DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Scorzonera incisa is similar to Scorzonera calyculata Boiss., which is distributed in Iran (N., NW., W., S. & C.) and Iraq (Safavi et al., 2013). S. incisa belongs to subgen. Scorzonera sect. Incisa Lipsch. Also, it differs from S. calyculata in many features; for instance, achenes 12-17 mm, deeply sulcate, with warty wings, sometimes swollen above base (galled) so appearing pyriform and stipitate, glabrous (not 18 mm, cylindrical-fusiform, glabrous, costate, costa suberose-pallescent, nonstipitate); Pappus dirty white, hairs short and plumose or longer, barbellate above and plumose below (not clear white, almost as long as achene, hairs plumose and scabrous in the upper part).

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REFERENCES


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