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 Azarbeyjan 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 Azarbeyjan
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 Azarbeyan 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 Azarbeyan 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).](image-url)
RESULTS

New Record to Iran

*Scorzonera incisa* DC. Iran. West Azarbajyan: Makou, Chaldoran to Khoy, Mahlamlou, 4 Km on the road from Navar to Yekmaleh, N: 38° 54’ 09″; E: 44° 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 basl 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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