

AN INTERESTING REPORT: WHAT IS *Kabulia akhtarii* (CARYOPHYLLACEAE: PARONYCHIOIDEAE)?

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For the preparation of Flora of Iran Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae, the herbarium specimens in the herbarium of Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (TARI) were identified. Some of the unnamed specimens matched well with the description and an illustration of *Kabulia akhtarii* which was originally described as a member of Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae. Further studies showed that *Kabulia akhtarii* is a synonymy of *Polygonum molliaeforme*.

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Key words. *Kabulia akhtarii*, Paronychioideae, *Polygonum molliaeforme*, Caryophyllaceae.

گزارشی جالب: گونه *Kabulia akhtarii* چیست؟

مهري دیناروند و مصطفی اسدی

طی مطالعه فلور زیر خانواده Paronychioideae از تیره Caryophyllaceae و شناسایی نمونه‌های مربوط به جنس Paronychia در هرباریوم موسسه تحقیقات جنگلها و مراتع، گونه *Kabulia akhtarii* Bor & Fisch از زیر خانواده Paronychioideae حذف و به عنوان مترادف گونه *Polygonum molliaeforme* Boiss. از تیره Polygonaceae برای اولین بار معرفی می‌شود.

Introduction

In order to prepare Flora of Iran Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae (Assadi 1986), the specimens of the genus *Paronychia* in the herbarium of Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands (TARI) were identified by the first author. Among the specimens some looked quite different from the others. Further studies showed that they fit well the illustration and the description of the monotypic genus *Kabulia* which was mentioned as a genus with uncertain position in Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1980). Careful studies of these specimens showed that they are in fact *Polygonum molliaeforme*. In this paper *Kabulia akhtarii* is regarded as a synonymy of *Polygonum molliaeforme*.

Polygonum molliaeforme Boiss. (Polygonaceae)

Syn.: *Kabulia akhtarii* Bor & Fisch. (Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae).

Polygonum molliaeforme Boiss. was described from Iran, Zagros mountain chains, Kuhe Dena (Boissier 1846). Later, in Flora Iranica it was recorded from many localities in Iran, Afghanistan including Kabul and Pakistan (Rechinger 1968). It is an annual plant looking in habit very much to the members of the Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae

Kabulia akhtarii Bor & Fich. was described as a monotypic genus from a locality near Kabul, Afghanistan (Kabul, S. A. Akhtar 78512) as a member of Caryophyllaceae: Paronychioideae (see Rechinger 1980). The genus was regarded as an endemic of Kabul area. It was distinguished from the other members of the subfamily Paronychioideae by having alternate leaves, no staminodes, 3 perianth segments and 3 stamens. Nearly a complete description and an illustration with the details were given. Rechinger (1980) in Paronychioideae Flora Iranica mentioned this genus as a genus of the subfamily with uncertain position. He included in Flora Iranica a complete description and the detailed illustration of the original authors. Even if we did not observe the type specimen of *Kabulia akhtarii* but it is quite clear from the illustration and the description that this species is a synonymy of *Polygonum molliaeforme*.

References

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