

# A NEW RECORD AND A KEY TO THE SPECIES OF THE GENUS *OXALIS* (*OXALIDACEAE*) IN IRAN

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*Oxalis* is the only genus of *Oxalidaceae* in Iran. Rechinger in Flora Iranica has mentioned *Oxalis corniculata* L. from Iran. Afterwards two other species were reported from Iran (*O. articulata* and *O. corymbosa*). *Oxalis latifolia* is reported here as a new record for the flora of the Iran. A new identification key of the species of the genus is presented here.

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Key words. *Oxalis*, *Oxalidaceae*, New record, identification key, Iran.

گزارش یک گونه جدید و کلید شناسایی گونه‌های جنس *Oxalis* L. در ایران  
منصوره خداهشناس، مربی پژوهش مرکز تحقیقات کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی استان کرمان.

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جنس *Oxalis* تنها جنس متعلق به خانواده *Oxalidaceae* در ایران است. رشینگر در فلور ایرانیکا تنها یک گونه از این جنس را برای ایران معرفی کرد. پس از آن و بر اساس مطالعات تکمیلی حضور دو گونه چند ساله *O. articulata* و *O. corymbosa* نیز در ایران گزارش شد. در بررسی تاکسونومیکی خانواده *Oxalidaceae* در ایران نمونه‌های مختلفی از جنس *Oxalis* مورد مطالعه قرار گرفت. گونه *Oxalis latifolia* Kunth به عنوان گزارش جدیدی از شمال ایران به همراه کلید شناسایی جدید جنس *Oxalis* در ایران ارائه می‌گردد.

## INTRODUCTION

Genus *Oxalis* L., belongs to the family *Oxalidaceae*, a family of including six genera and about 775 species, occurring mainly in the tropical but also in temperate regions of both the New and Old World. *Oxalis* is a cosmopolitan genus of perhaps 500 species distributed mostly in Africa and South America (Shixiao et al. 2006). It is the largest and most widespread genus in the family. Many of the *Oxalis* species are invasive garden and greenhouse weeds. It comprises annual or perennial herbs and has two center of diversity: South America to the Southern part of North America and South Africa. The habitats of *Oxalis* species are in wetlands, moist disturbed places, waste places, along watercourses, roadsides of disturbed places or is often found along the roads, in gardens or in pots.

According to Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1967) only one species occur in Iran (*O. corniculata* L.). Ghahremaninejad & Gholamian (2006) and Naqinezhad & Sharifi (2007) reported *O. articulata* and *O. corymbosa* respectively from North of Iran as new records. The first author has been preparing the draft of Flora of Iran. During the studies of Herbarium

specimens of Mazandaran, Nowshahr, we found *Oxalis latifolia*, a bulbous species of the genus *Oxalis* with obverse-deltoid leaves and purplish flowers among the specimens. The aim of this paper is to report *Oxalis latifolia* as a new report from Iran and to present an identification key to the species of the genus in Iran.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The specimens of several herbaria in Iran including TARI and several provincial herbaria were studied. Some *Oxalis* specimens were collected in the fieldwork in different regions in Kerman province too. Identification of the species were done by using Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1976), Flora of Turkey (Cullen 1967), Flora of Pakistan (Nasir & Ali 1980), Flora of the U.S.S.R (Gorshkova 1949) and Flora Europaea (Young 1968).

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### New record to Iran

*Oxalis latifolia* Kunth in Humb. Bonpl. & Kunth., Nov. Gen., 5 (22): 237 (1822), Fig. 1.

Materials examined. Mazandaran, Nowshahr, Botanical



Fig. 1. *Oxalis latifolia* ( $\times 0.55$ ).

