

## A NEW RECORD OF *SILENE* L. (CARYOPHYLLACEAE) FROM IRAN

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*Silene breviauriculata* Ghazanfar from sect. *Auriculatae* that already was reported from Afghanistan in Flora Iranica, is recorded from Iran for the first time. The distribution map of the new record is presented.

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**Key words:** Caryophyllaceae; *Silene*; new record; Khorassan; Iran

گزارش گونه جدیدی از *Silene* L. (تیره میخکیان) برای فلور ایران

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گونه *Silene breviauriculata* که براساس فلورا ایرانیکا پراکنش آن تاکنون فقط از افغانستان گزارش شده است، در این مقاله برای اولین بار از ایران (استان خراسان) گزارش می شود. تصویرها و نقشه پراکنش آن در ایران نشان داده شده است.

### INTRODUCTION

*Silene* L. is the largest genus in the family *Caryophyllaceae* and includes many horticultural and medicinal plants (Swank 1932, Vestal 1952, Oxelman & Lidén 1995). There are approximately 700 species distributed mainly throughout the northern hemisphere, but also in North Africa and South America. Half of all species grow in the Middle East (Melzheimer 1988). The southern part of the Balkan Peninsula and southwestern Asia are major centers of biodiversity of *Silene* (Greuter 1995). The Iranian plateau has 140 species of *Silene*, which have been classified in 23 sections. Of these, nearly 98-102 species of *Silene* with different estimation, classified in 21 sections, can be found in Iran (Hossieni & al. 2016, Gholipour & Parsa Khangah 2015, Edalatiyan & al. 2010 & 2011, Gholipour & Sheidai 2009, Melzheimer 1988). Approximately 30 species are endemic to the country (Melzheimer 1988), most of which are distributed in the western part of Iran (Edalatiyan & al. 2010). According to studies of

Hosseini & al. (2016), the trichome types might vary on different organs in *Silene*. Hosseini & al. (2017), reported seed morphology of 42 species of genus *Silene* representing 22 sections distributed mainly in the area of Flora Iranica

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Herbarium specimens of the genus *Silene* L., collected from different places of Khorassan Province were examined and identified by relevant literatures (Shishkin 1936; Melzheimer 1988). All specimens (27 specimens observed) are preserved in Herbarium of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad (FUMH).

### RESULTS

#### New record

*Silene breviauriculata* Ghazanfar, Notes Roy. Bot. Gard. Edinb. 41 (1): 99 (1983), fig.1.

Perennial, caespitose; rootstock hard, branched, stoloniform; stems with one rarely two-flowers 1.5 to 12 cm long, erect or ascendant; hair-covering short,

rigid, retrose, upwards glandulosus. Leaves 2-8(-11) × 0.5-2.5 (-3.5) mm, often lanceolate and basal leaves linear-lanceolate, somewhat falcate, one-nerved, acute or obtuse, pubescent, yellowish or pale green; indumentums in two sides; petiole at base short attenuate; upper leaves sessile, shorter than the basal ones. Inflorescence always one rarely two flowered. Bracts 0.5-5(-10) mm long, lanceolate, acute, glandulose-pubescent, not ciliate at margins, herbaceous, broader than leaves. Calyx 5- 17.5-24(-26.5) mm long, cylindric- clavate, glandulose mixed with short eglandulose hairs, green or yellow with veins dark violet; tooth of calyx 1- 1.5 mm long,

obtuse, margin membranous, ciliate. Petal white to yellow or dirty brown sometimes rose; limb 4-6(-9) mm long, up to 3/4 bifid; claw 6-10(-13) mm long, auriculate above, coronal scale 0.5-1.25 mm long, oblong, wide obtuse. Capsule 5-9.5(-12) × 1.5-5.5 mm long, ovate-oblong; anthophore 6-16.5 mm long, glaber. Seed 1.2-1.4 mm diameter, rounded-reniform.

*Examined specimens:* Khorassan province, NW Mashhad, Hezar-masjed summit, 3118 m 36° 58' 38.2" N, 59° 21' 38" E, Basiri 45480, 45481, 45482 [FUMH]; 3132m, 36° 58' 23.7" N, 59° 21' 22.7" E, Joharchi & Behrozian 44193, 44194 [FUMH].

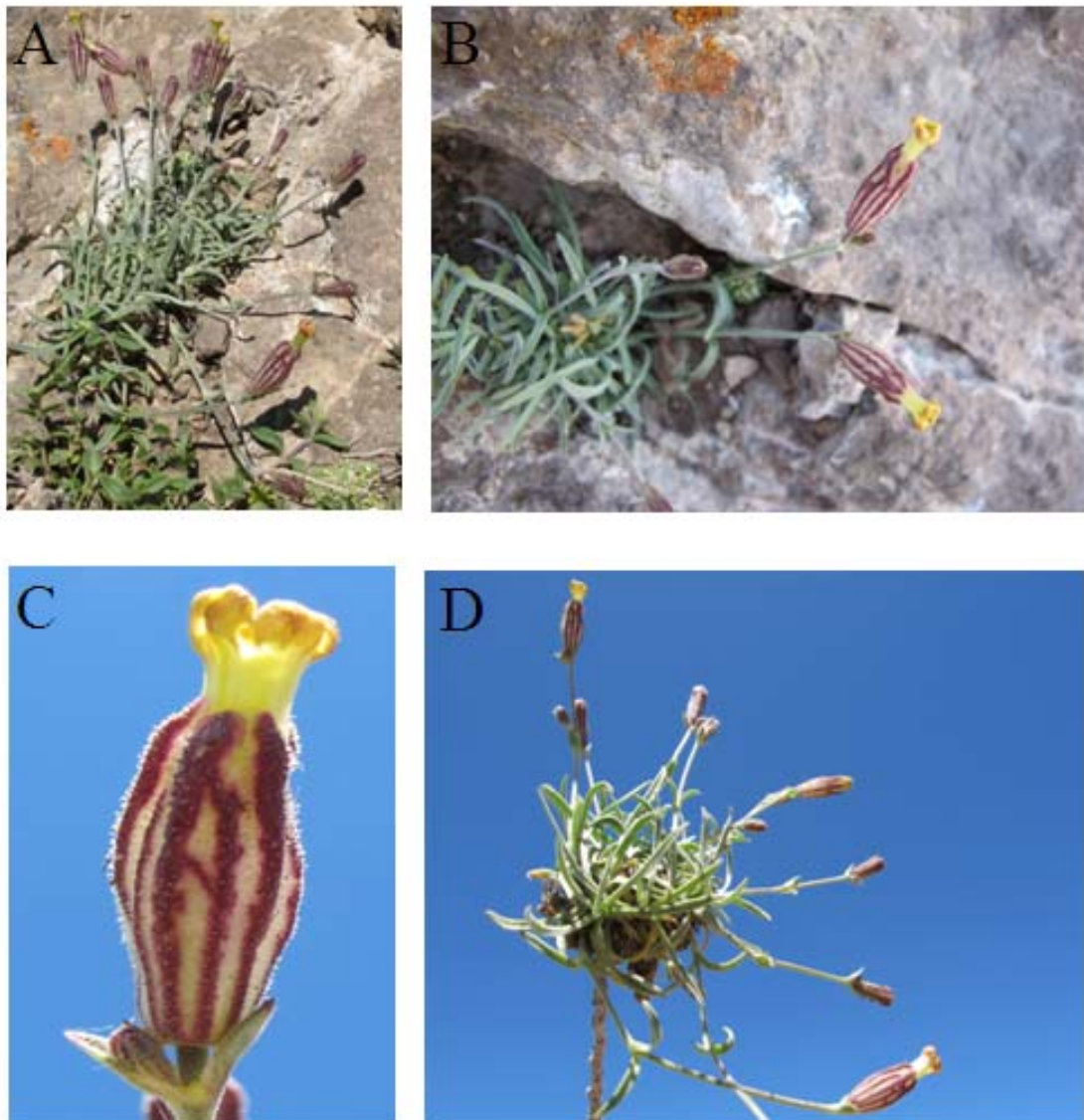


Fig. 1. *Silene breviauriculata* Ghazanfar (A, B and D: habit, C: flower).

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