

Satureja rechingeri (Labiatae) – a new species from Iran

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Abstract

Satureja rechingeri (Labiatae) is described as a new species from Iran, and its relationship to *S. khuzistanica*, *S. edmondi* and *S. macrantha* discussed. The new species is characterized by its yellow flowers, dense white villous hairs and a dense covering of punctate glands on both leaf surfaces. It grows in Ilam province in west Iran.

Key Words: Flora of Iran; Labiatae, *Satureja*, *S. rechingeri* sp.n.

Zusammenfassung

Satureja rechingeri (Labiatae) wird neu beschrieben, die Unterschiede zu *S. khuzistanica*, *S. edmondi* und *S. macrantha* werden diskutiert. Die neue Art aus der Ilam Provinz in Iran wird durch gelbe Blüten, dichte zottige Behaarung und eine dichte Punktierung mit Drüsen auf beiden Blattseiten charakterisiert.

Introduction

In autumn 1994, the author collected *Satureja* species in the western part of the country in Ilam province. In this excursion a highly aromatic specimen was found; its characters did not match any of the Iranian taxa or other specimens studied before at TARI, G and W. Therefore it is described as new species.

Results and discussion

RECHINGER in Flora Iranica (1982) reported 14 species from this area, 11 of which were in Iran, 5 as endemics. Since the publication of the Flora Iranica account *S. kallarica* JAMZAD, and *S. khuzistanica* JAMZAD have been described (JAMZAD 1992, 1994), bringing, together with the new one described here, the total of Iran species to 14. They are mainly distributed in the west of the country with a few in the north.

Satureja rechingeri JAMZAD sp.n.

Suffrutex, valde aromaticus, a basi ramosus; caules \pm 50 cm alti. Tota planta densissime canescenti-villosa. Folia caulina 9 - 13 x 7 - 11 mm, late obovata vel orbicularia, basi abrupte in petiolum 1 mm longum attenuata, dense glanduloso-punctata. Folia inferiora plana; superiora apicem versus leviter incurvata. Cymae pedunculatae, 2 - 8-florae;

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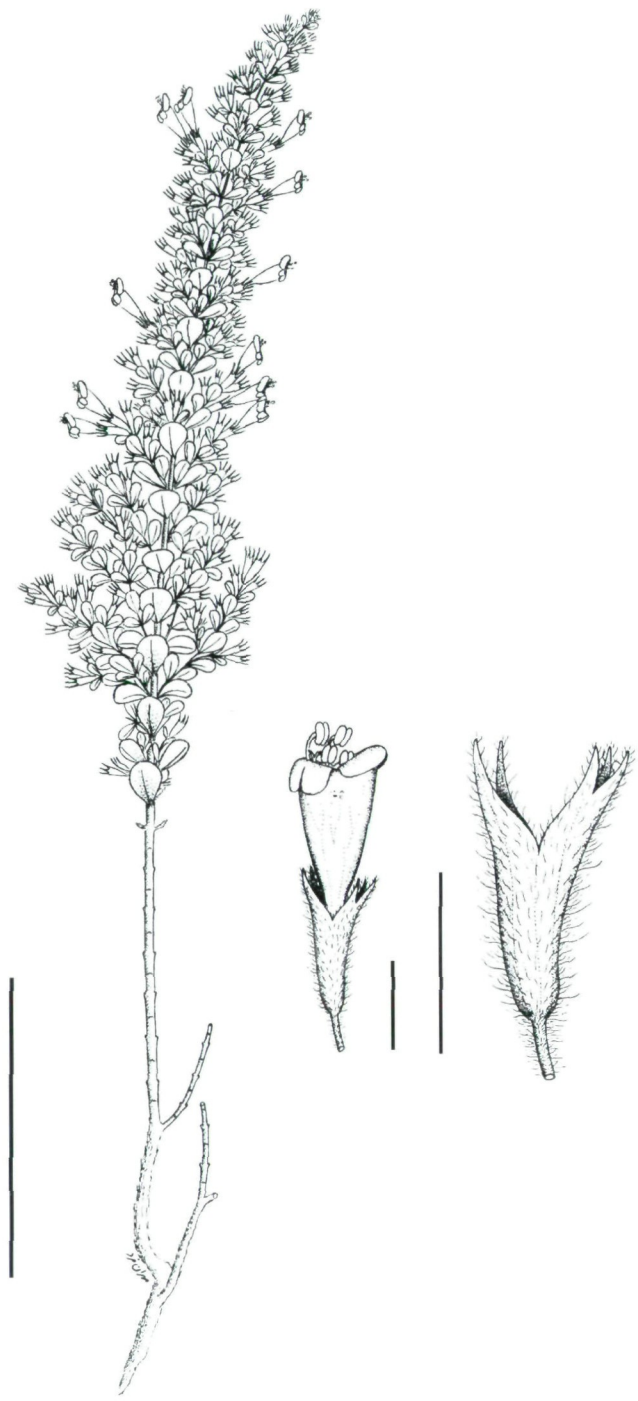


Fig. 1: *Satureja rechingeri*, plant (bar = 5 cm), flower and calyx (bars = 0,5 cm).

pedunculi 2 - 6 mm longi, spicastra subdensa, interrupta gerentes. Bractee lanceolatae 2 - 3.5 mm longae. Calyx 6.5 - 8 mm longus, tubuloso-campanulatus, bilabiatus; dentes superiores triangulares, acuti, 2 mm longi, inferiores lanceolati, 3 mm longi. Corolla 13 - 15 mm longa, flava, labiis purpureo-suffusis. Stamina corollae fauce vix exserta. Semina ignota. (Fig. 1).

Typus: (Iran,) Ilam (province), Ilam to Mehran, Ban-e Roushan, 900 m; Jamzad, Mazhari & Ahmadi, 75587 [holotypus TARI].

Subshrub, strongly scented, branched from base; stem \pm 50 cm high; all parts covered by dense, white villose hairs. Stem leaves 9 - 13 x 7 - 11 mm, broadly obovate or orbicular, abruptly attenuate at the base into a 1 mm long petiole, densely covered with punctate glands on both surfaces. Lower leaves flat, upper leaves gently curved inwards to the apex. Cymes pedunculate, 2 - 8-flowered, forming a \pm dense interrupted spike; peduncles 2 - 6 mm long. Bracts lanceolate, 2 - 3.5 mm long. Calyx 6.5 - 8 mm, tubulose-campanulate, bilabiate; upper teeth triangular, 2 mm long, acute, lower teeth 3 mm long. Corolla 13 - 15 mm long, yellow, the lips tinged purple. Stamens 4, slightly exserted from the corolla tube. Seeds not seen.

The new species is found on dry stony slopes on river banks.

It is close to *S. khuzistanica* JAMZAD, *S. edmondi* BRIQ. and *S. macrantha* C.A.MEY. *S. khuzistanica* differs in having \pm imbricate, decussate leaves with short internodes, a shortly pubescent indumentum, the inflorescence of shortly pedunculated verticillasters and violet corollas. *S. edmondi* differs in having oblong-lanceolate leaves, a shortly pubescent indumentum, the inflorescence of subsessile \pm approximating verticillasters and violet corollas. *S. macrantha* differs in having linear-spathulate leaves, a scabrid, retrorse indumentum and mauve corollas.

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