

Teucrium melissoides Boiss. & Hausskn. ex Boiss. (Lamiaceae): A New Record for Flora of Turkey

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Abstract

Teucrium L. is one of the well-known genus for botanists and it belongs to Section *Scordium* Boiss. of Lamiaceae which is represented by a single species, *T. scordium* L. in Turkey. An interesting *Teucrium* specimen has been collected from south-east Turkey, Şırnak. The specimen was identified as *Teucrium melissoides* Boiss. & Hausskn. ex Boiss. The species is a new record for the Flora of Turkey and it is closely allied to *T. scordium* L. The type specimen of the taxon has been examined at G herbarium alongside other specimens of the taxon and photographed. The descriptions of the species given in both Boissier and Rechinger have been revised and it is enlarged by giving the measurements of various characters here. A photograph of the type specimen and the Turkish material taken from field has been supplied with a map.

INTRODUCTION

Teucrium L. is one of the well-known genus for botanists and it belongs to Section *Scordium* Boiss. of Lamiaceae which is represented by a single species, *T. scordium* L. in Turkey. An interesting *Teucrium* specimen which has characteristic densely velutinous indumentums, greyish appearance and grows at marshy habitat has been observed at Şırnak, located in eastern part of Turkey. The specimens were very distinct by longer pedicels and white corolla. Due to these unusual characters for *Teucrium* Section *Scordium*, they

have been carefully examined and photo-graphed in the field. Further studies on the specimens were based on the various floristic books and it has been identified as *Teucrium melissoides* Boiss. & Hausskn. ex Boiss. [1,2]. On the other hand, the studies on the type materials and other historical collections at G herbarium by the second author have supported the identification (Figure 1).

Teucrium melissoides Boiss. & Hausskn. ex Boiss., Flora Orientalis 4: 813 (1879). Icon.: Tab. 29: in Flora Iranica, Lfg.151.

Type: Syntypi plures e Persia austr-occidentali, *Haussknecht*, G-Boiss!

Rhizomatous, stoloniferous herb, Stem (13-) 40-80 cm, long, robust, branched or widely unbranched; indumentum distinctly velutinous, appressed to

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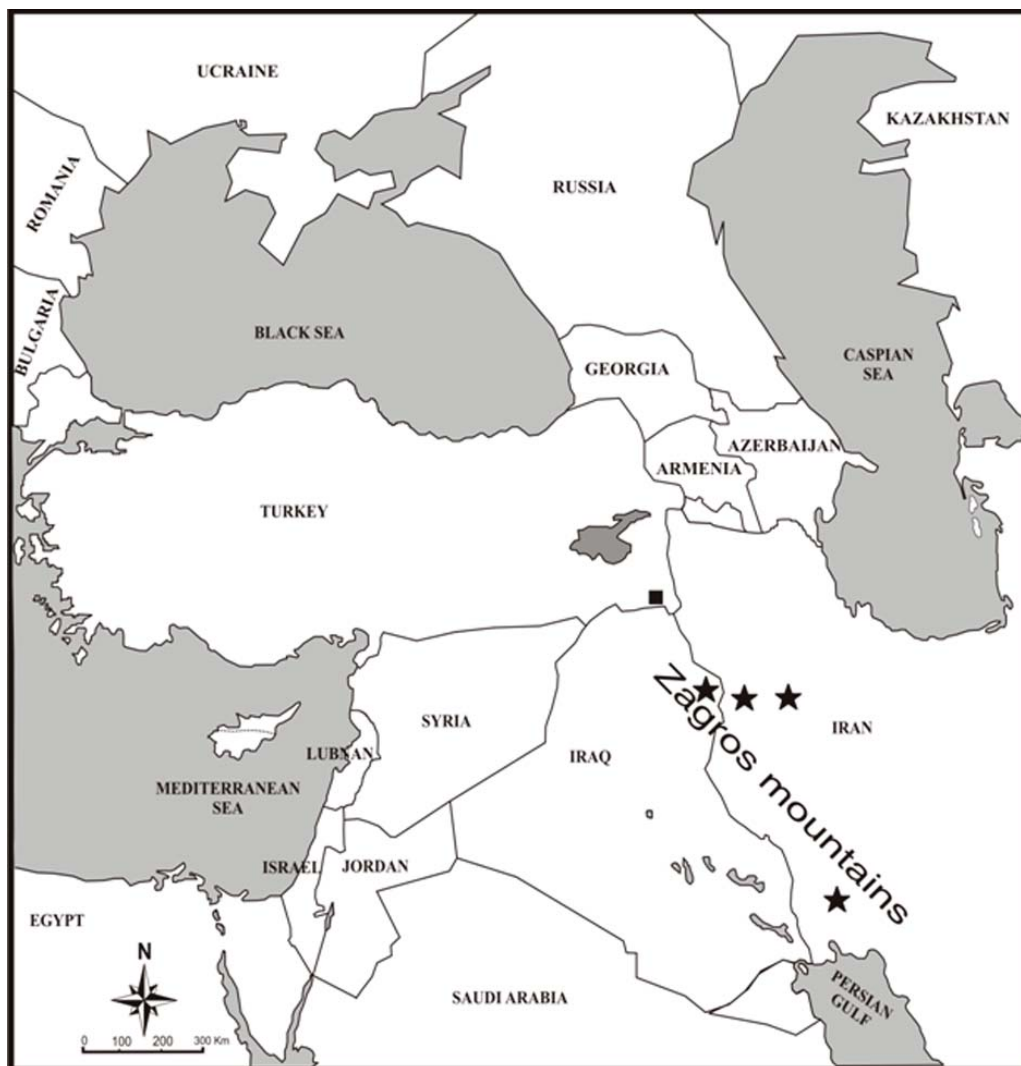


Figure 1. Distribution of *Teucrium melissoides* in Iran-Iraq (★) and Turkey (■).

patent, greyish to whitish, rarely whole plant ± glabrous, greenish. Leaves 15-45 x 12-20 mm, shortly cuneate or rounded, rarely cordate at base, sessile to with 1-2 mm petiole, oblong, crenate at margin, rounded, obtuse to slightly acute at apex, densely greyish to white-tomentose on both surface, hairs patent to crisped, slightly recurved on stem. Lateral branches bearing smaller dentate leaves, axial verticillasters bearing big leaves with 2-4 flowers. Pedicels 4-12 mm, distinctly longer than calyx. Calyx ± 4-5 mm in length, eglandular hispid with sessile glands, indistinctly bilabiate; teeth triangular, acute, shorter than tube. Corolla 7-8 mm in length; whitish, yellowish at base, two times longer than calyx, sparsely long pilose outside. Stamens exerted. Nutlet 1.0-1.2 x 0.6-0.8 mm with translucent sessile glands.

Turkey: C9 Şırnak, 12.5 km from Uludere road junction to Beytüşşebap, around the spring of water, wet places, 37° 23' 353" N, 42° 54' 026" E, 1070 m, 18. vi. 2003. AAD 11230-B. Mutlu (HUB and INU).

Persia: W Luristan, Oshtoran Kuh, around Gahar, limestone, spring of water, *Renz s.n. in Iter Iranicum VIII*. 1974, K.H.Rechinger 48264 (Hb. G 182384!). Luristan, Bisheh, 50 km E of Khorramabad, limestone, c. 1200-1400 m, *Iter Iranicum II*. 1948. K.H.Rechinger 5660 (Hb. G 8347!). Kuh Giluye (Kilouyeh) prope Behbahan, June, 1868, *Hauskn s. n.* (G!).

Iraq: Suleymaniye, Mt. Avroman et Schahu, c. July 1867, *Hauskn.* 820. (Type specimen of the species) (G!).



Figure 2. One of the syntype of *Teucrium melissoides* (Haussknecht 820).

DISCUSSION

The description of the species has been amended according to available materials, including those collected from Turkey. Length of the Turkish collection is shorter than that of the examined herbarium materials. Therefore, measurement of stem length is changed as (20-) 40-80 cm. Furthermore, some of the descriptive characters of the species are amended and the measurements of the various characters have been given as follows; leaves 15-45 x 12-20 mm, obtuse to slightly acute at apex; petioles sessile to with 1-2 mm petiole; pedicels 4-12 mm; calyx \pm 4-5 mm in length; corolla 7-8 mm in length; nutlets 1.0-1.2 x 0.6-0.8 mm with translucent sessile glands.

The Indumentum of the species, according to description given by Rechinger is mostly recurved. But the indumentum character of our collection (AAD 11230-B.Mutlu) does not support the description that is being mainly patent. And the recurved hairs will be seen on only stem. Moreover, the studies of the collected materials deposited at G-Boiss. herbarium support this observation.

The section *Scordium* Boiss. has been represented by two species with the addition of *T. melissoides*. This new record will be distinguished from *T. scordium* by white petal colors and longer pedicels.

T. melissoides is known from various localities of the Zagros Mountain range which starts from Turkey and lies down between Iraq and Iran. Due to restricted distribution of the species on the Zagros Mountain range it is proposed as an endemic species by Rechinger [2]. Beside this, in consideration of the widely distribution of the species, including three countries, there is no threat of extinction for the species. Therefore, it is not evaluated against to the threat categories of the International Union for Conservation of Nature

(IUCN) [3]. The specimens of the taxon have been kept at HUB and INU.

The genus *Teucrium* is represented by 27 species in Turkey [4]. Due to recent descriptions and new records, species number of the genus in Turkey was 30 [5], and it is reached to 31 by adding this new record.

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