

A NEW ALLIEN SPECIES RECORD FOR THE FLORA OF TURKEY: *PROBOSCIDEA LOUISIANICA* (MILLER) THELL.

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Abstract

Proboscidea louisianica (Miller) Thell. (Martyniaceae) is reported as a new alien species for the flora of Turkey. A plant species with different and interesting fruits was photographed in 2016. During a field investigation, a population of *P. louisianica* consisting of ca. 25 individuals was found at roadside between Biga and Karabiga town, district of Çanakkale, and plant specimens with flowers were collected in 2017. After detailed literature studies, this species was identified as *Proboscidea louisianica*. The family Martyniaceae is represented by just 1 genus with 1 taxa (*Ibicella lutea* (Lindl.) Van Eselt.) in Turkey and no member of the genus *Proboscidea* has been recorded before. In this paper, the species was introduced with taxonomical and morphological features. Its ecological impact was also evaluated with potential risks.

Keywords: *Proboscidea*, Martyniaceae, new record, flora, Turkey

Genişletilmiş Özet

Bu çalışmada *Proboscidea louisianica* (Miller) Thell. (Martyniaceae) Türkiye Florası için yeni bir yabancı tür olarak kaydedilmiştir. Çanakkale, Biga-Karabiga arası yol kenarında yaklaşık 25 adet bitkiden oluşan popülasyondan 2016 yılında genç meyveli, çiçek taşımayan bireylerden

fotoğraflar çekilerek kayıt alınmıştır. 2017 yılında çiçeklenme dönemi olan Ağustos ve Eylül aylarında tekrar arazi çalışması yapılarak hem bitki örnekleri alınmış hem de detaylı populasyon bilgileri kaydedilmiştir. Yapılan incelemeler sonucunda bitkinin şimdiye kadar yapılan flora ile ilgili yayınlarda yer almadığı görülmüştür. Daha sonra yapılan literatür taraması ile bitki *Proboscidea louisianica* (Martyniaceae) olarak teşhis edilmiştir. Familyanın Türkiye için yeni bir istilacı tür olarak 2014 yılında kayıt edilen *Ibicella lutea* (Lindl.) Van Eselt. türü dışında başka bir taksonu Türkiye florasında yer almamaktadır. Türün bölgeye nasıl ve ne zaman geldiği bilinmemektedir. Hızlı yayılma kabiliyetinde olan bu yabancı türün bulunduğu bölgede istilacı olma potansiyelinin yüksek olduğu düşünülmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: *Proboscidea*, Martyniaceae, yeni kayıt, flora, Türkiye

INTRODUCTION

Alien species are the species that spread by human activities accidentally or deliberately beyond the limits of its native geographic range into a given geographical unit where they do not naturally occur. Common synonyms are exotic, adventive, introduced, non-indigenous, or non-native (Richardson et al. 2011). Some alien species can easily colonized and naturalized in their new region and can also be invasive because they have the potential to spread over a considerable area. Therefore, the national alien plant checklist are crucial to evaluate the status of biodiversity and threats to endangered species in a given country but globally integrated efforts are needed to control, manage and understand the spread of alien species. (van Kleunen et al. 2015). Recently, a checklist of the alien plants of the Turkey which comprises 340 taxa, was published (Uludağ et al. 2017).

Martyniaceae is represented by 5 genera and 16 species in the world, distributed mainly in southern USA to Argentina (Ihlenfeldt 2004). The most characteristic feature of the family is its fruits which terminate in an upwardly-curved beak which may be longer (in *Ibicella* and *Proboscidea*) or shorter than the fruit body (Thieret 1977). The genus *Proboscidea* is represented by 8 species that spread naturally from the south of America to Mexico (Ihlenfeldt 2004, Gutierrez 2011).

In this article, it is claimed that this species is the first record of the genus to be added to the alien flora of Turkey. This plant species can spread quickly where it is located and compete well with the native vegetation of the locations at which it occurs.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The studied plant species was photographed for the first time by forest engineer Muhammet Akkaya during the fruit period in 2016 in Biga (Figure 1). In August and September 2017, plant specimens were collected during flowering time. This species is included neither in Flora of Turkey (Davis 1965-1985, Davis et al. 1988, Güner et al. 2000) nor in relevant publications/literatures that have been published before (Güner et al. 2012, Uludağ et al. 2017). After detailed studies it has been determined as genus *Proboscidea* which belongs to Martyniaceae family that is not found in Turkey. It was identified as *Proboscidea louisianica* which is a native species of South America and Mexico according to several literatures (Komarow 1934-1960, Abrams 1960, Tutin et al. 1964-1980, Heywood 1978, Wunderlin 1998, Ihlenfeldt 2004). The specimens were deposited at the Faculty of Forestry Herbarium of Istanbul University (ISTO).

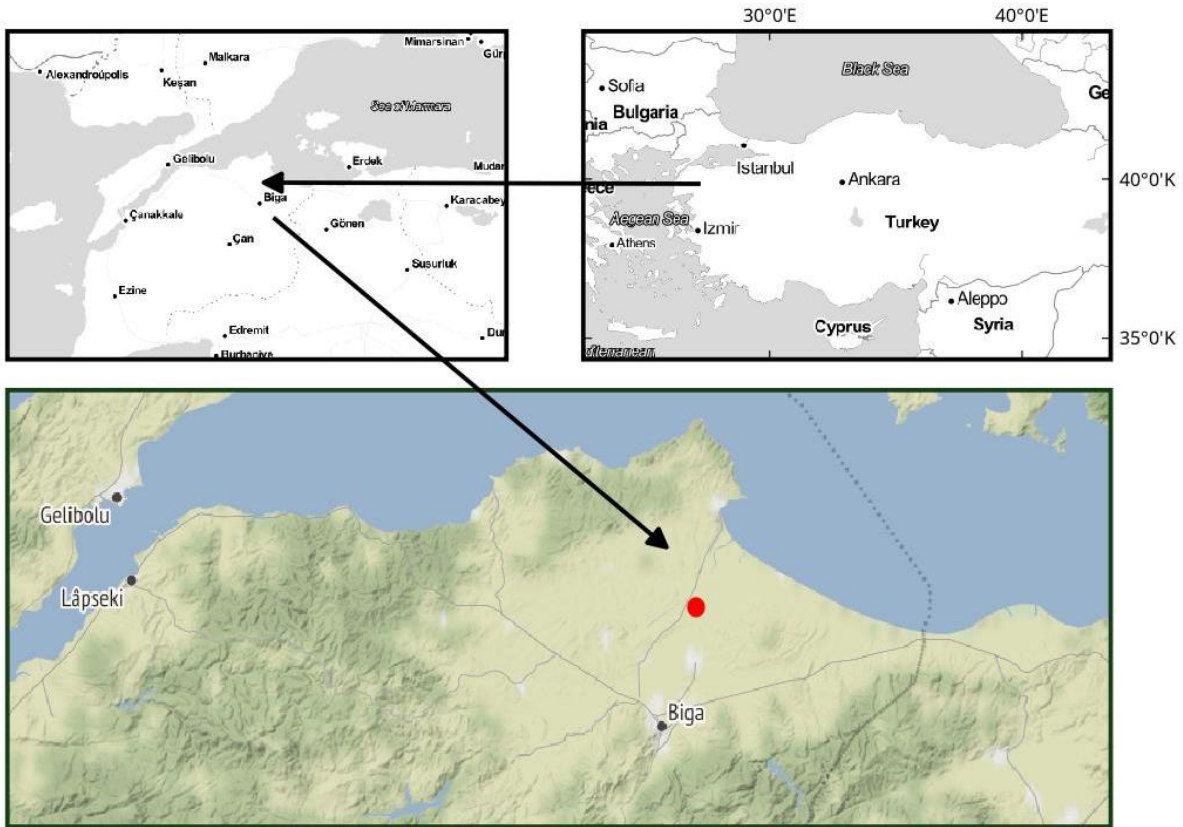


Figure 1. The area where the specimens collected

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

New record in Turkey: A1 Çanakkale: Karabiga-Biga. Between Güleçköy and Yeniçiftlik on roadsides, dried Ece lake around, 7.9.2017, 20m, Sevgi E., ISTO Number: 37325.

Description of the species (*Proboscidea louisianica* (Miller) Thell. Mém. Soc. Sci. Nat. Math. Cherbourg 38: 480. 1912) is given by following Abrams and Ferris (1960), Tutin (1972) and Ihlenfeldt (2004) (Figure 2). Fatty acid derivatives and dammarane triterpenes from the glandular trichome exudates of *Ibicella lutea* and *Proboscidea louisiana*” (Asai et al. 2010), this specimen is named as *Proboscidea louisiana* in some articles. But as a result of the examinations, it is determined that the writing of the epithet as “*lousiana*” is incorrect.

English names: Purple flower devil's claw, goathead, goat's-head, ram's-horn, elephant-tusk, unicorn plant (Parsons and Cuthbertson 2001, Wiersema and Leon 2013).

Description: Glandular-pubescent annual with prostrate or ascending stems, 30-90 cm long. Leaves opposite, the upper sometimes subalternate, 6-20 cm across, broadly ovate or rounded, deeply cordate at base, entire or shallowly sinuate. Petioles 5-15 cm, stout, Inflorescence racemose, (8)-20-40 flowered and flowers fragrant. Calyx 1.5-2 cm long, connate at least $\frac{1}{2}$. Corolla campanulate to funnel form, limb unequally 5-lobed; white, cream or purple, throat yellow and often dotted with rose-purple, about 3.5-5.5cm long. Fertile stamens 4, included. Fruit is a 2-valved capsule with long horns, 4-6 cm, horns are 1-3 times longer than the body, on the upper site with a serrate crest up to 1 cm high, surface usually not distinctly echinate. Flowering time is August to September in Turkey.

Habitat: Pastures, roadsides, dried lake around in Turkey (Figure 3).



Figure 2. *Proboscidea louisianica*; a,b: habitus, c,d: flower morphology

P. fragrans (Lindl.) Decne. which is taxonomically similar to *P. louisianica* has been accepted as a species according to Lawrence 1957 and Hevly 1970 (Gutierrez 2014). The leaves of *P. louisianica* have entire margins, and the corollas are creamy-white tinged with lavender whereas leaves of *P. fragrans* are 3-5 lobed with roughly serrate margins and the corollas are dark-medium purple. However according to Bretting (1983), *P. fragrans* was accepted as a subspecies of *P. louisianica*. According to recent molecular studies using phylogenetic analyses of nuclear and chloroplast sequences fails to place *P. fragrans* as a sister to *P. louisianica*. Thus these species were recognized to be different species (Gutierrez 2011, 2014).

The leaves, stems, flowers and immature fruits of *P. louisianica* are covered with dense glandular trichomes, and that exude unpleasant smelling oily materials. The glandular trichome exudate on leaves of *P. louisianica* were the most abundant constituents the dammarane triterpenes (47%) and the glucosyloxy-fatty acids (38%) (Asai et al. 2010).



Figure 3. Habitat of *Proboscidea louisianica*

Proboscidea louisianica is a native of south America and Mexico (Gutierrez 2011), introduced and naturalized in some European and Mediterranean countries, i.e. Portugal, South east Russia (Tutin 1972), South France, Italy, South Russia and Caucasia (Greuter et al. 1989, Czerepanov 1995, Paiva et al. 2001), Greece (Raab-Straube and Raus, 2016), Australia (Thieret 1977, Parsons and Cuthbertson 2001). With this finding, Turkey may be added as a new distribution area of the species. The family Martyniaceae is represented by just 1 genus with 1 taxa (*Ibicella lutea*

(Lindl.) Van Eselt.) in Turkey (Pirhan and Yıldırım 2014) and no member of the genus *Proboscidea* has been recorded up to now.

There is no common name of the species in Turkish because of the new registration for Flora of Turkey. “Keçibaşı” is suggested Turkish name for this species as the translation of one of its names used in English which refers to the long horned fruit that resembles goat-head (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Mature capsule of *Proboscidea louisianica*

Young fruits of *Proboscidea louisianica* may be made prickles and dried fruits may be used in floral arrangements. Hard and woody fruit with their long and hooked horns can injure grazing animals especially sheep (Thieret 1977, EPPO 2009). They also can be strongly competitive with summer crops. Also hard and woody fruits can mix with stock and can prick to the feet or mouth. This plant species can spread quickly where is located and compete well with the native vegetation of the locations at which it occurs (EPPO 2009).

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