

A New Record for the Flora of Turkey: *Cerastium szowitsii* Boiss. (Caryophyllaceae)

Fergan KARAER^{1*}, Salih TERZİOĞLU², Hamdi Güray KUTBAY³

¹Ondokuz Mayıs University, Faculty of Education, 55000, Samsun, TURKEY

²Karadeniz Technical University, Faculty of Forestry, 61080, Trabzon, TURKEY

³Ondokuz Mayıs University, Faculty of Science-Literature, 55000, Samsun, TURKEY

*Corresponding Author: sterzi@ktu.edu.tr

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Abstract

Aim of study: In this study, it was aimed to contribute the vascular plant species diversity of Turkey.

Area of study: A8 Artvin: Hatila Valley National Park, rocky places, roadsides, 559 m in NE Anatolia.

Material and method: Plant materials were collected during the field studies in the years 2011 and 2012. They were processed according to standard herbarium techniques and stored at three herbariums.

Main results: *Cerastium szowitsii* Boiss. is reported as a new species to the Turkish flora.

Research highlights: Recent studies on vascular flora underlined that native and non-native taxa have been newly recorded from Turkey. Thus, this kind of studies should be conducted in mountainous part of NE Anatolia.

Keywords: Anatolia, Artvin, Caryophyllaceae, *Cerastium*, New Record.

Türkiye Florası İçin Yeni Bir Kayıt: *Cerastium szowitsii* Boiss. (Caryophyllaceae)

Öz

Çalışmanın amacı: Bu çalışmada, Türkiye'nin vasküler bitki türlerinin çeşitliliğine katkıda bulunulması amaçlanmıştır.

Çalışma alanı: A8 Artvin: Hatila Vadisi Milli Parkı, kayalık alanlar, yol kenarı, Kuzeydoğu Anadolu'da 559 m.

Materyal ve yöntem: 2011 ve 2012 yıllarında yapılan arazi çalışmaları sırasında toplanan çok sayıda bitki materyalleri standart herbaryum tekniklerine göre hazırlanmış ve üç ayrı herbaryuma yerleştirilmiştir.

Temel sonuçlar: *Cerastium szowitsii* Boiss. Türkiye florası için yeni bir tür olarak rapor edilmektedir.

Araştırma vurguları: Damarlı bitkiler üzerine yapılan son çalışmalar, Türkiye'de doğal ve egzotik yeni bitki kayıtlarının yapıldığını ortaya koymaktadır. Bundan dolayı bu tür çalışmaların Kuzeydoğu Anadolu'nun dağlık kesimlerinde yapılmalıdır.

Anahtar kelimeler: Anadolu, Artvin, Caryophyllaceae, *Cerastium*, Yeni Kayıt.

Introduction

The family Caryophyllaceae Juss. includes 89 genera and about 3000 species worldwide (Rabeler & Hartman, 2005). The family has been divided into three subfamilies such as Caryophylloideae, Paronychioideae and Alsinoideae to which the genus *Cerastium* L. belongs (Bittrich, 1993; Poursakhi et al., 2013). This genus has more than 100 taxa throughout the world and distributed in Europe, Eurasia, Africa and America (IPNI, 2019; Miceli et al., 1997; Scheen et al., 2004).

Although many studies have been conducted on the vascular flora of Karadeniz Region of Turkey, some native and naturalized vascular plant taxa have hitherto been recorded from the region (e.g. Karaer & Terzioğlu, 2014; Terzioğlu & Karaer, 2014). Ecologically tolerated taxa can be easily arrived at different sites beyond their previous geographical ranges which makes them worthy of attention (Terzioğlu & Anşin, 2001). As well, some vascular native plant taxa have been recorded to Turkish Flora with intensive floristic studies.



The genus *Cerastium* was firstly revised by Cullen (1967) in Flora of Turkey where he recognised 29 taxa. Adding two new ones, the number of taxa increased to 39 in Turkey (Ayaşlıgil, 1984; Davis & Mill., 1988). Recently, 37 species have been reported from Turkey (Keskin, 2012; Keskin, 2018). In May 2011 and 2012, some *Cerastium* specimens were collected from Hatila Valley National Park (NE Anatolia - Artvin) by the authors during the project on “Long-term Development Plan of Hatila Valley National Park”. There are no previous reports of this species in Turkey.

The aim of the present study is to make contributions to the vascular flora of Turkey by recording *Cerastium szowitsii* Boiss. (Szowitz's Chickweed).

Materials and Methods

The plant specimens for this study were collected from A8 Artvin province during fieldworks in 2011–2012. They were checked in national (KATO, OMUB, ANK, GAZI, HUB, ISTE, ISTF) and international (G, K, B and E) herbariums. After checking the literature, we concluded that the specimens of *C. szowitsii* were previously unknown in Turkey (Cullen, 1967; Keskin, 2012; Keskin, 2018). Additionally, all specimens were cross-checked according to the relevant literature (Boissier, 1867;

Karyagin, 1950-1961; Möschl, 1966; Komarov, 1970; Tolmachev, 1970; Sell & Whitehead, 1993; Takhtajan, 1954-2001; Güner et al., 2000).

The specimens of new finding were kept at the OMUB (in Ondokuz Mayıs University), KATO and KTUB (both in Karadeniz Technical University) Herbariums.

Results and Discussion

Cerastium szowitsii Boiss., Fl. Or. I (1867) 717; Voron. In Fom. and Voron. Opređ. rast. Kavk. il, 2, 162. (Figures 1, 2).

Syn. *Cerastium gnaphalodes* Fenzl. subsp. *album* Buschm, *Cerastium szowitsii* var. *album* (Buschm.) I.V. Sokolova ex Czerep. (Sokolova, 1996).

Perennial plant with reduced sterile shoots, stem erect, white-tomentose, except in lower part, (-5)10-20 cm. Leaves lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, 10-25 mm x 2-3.5 (-5) mm, acute. Flowers 1-4 at the end of the stem, pedicels erect, longer than calyx. Bracts acute, broadly scarious –margined. Sepals lanceolate with scarious margins 7-8 mm, petals white twice as long as calyx lobed to one –third. Styles 5; capsule opening by 10 teeth, capsule teeth straight or slightly spreading, capsule oblong, about twice as long as calyx, dehiscent by erect, revolute-margined teeth. Seeds ca. 1 mm long, bluntly tuberculate. *Flowering time* 6-8.

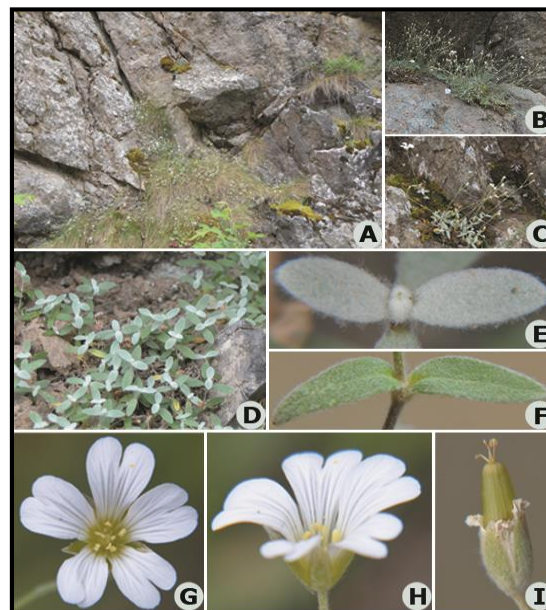


Figure 1. *Cerastium szowitsii* A, B, C- Habitats; D, E- Reduced sterile shoots; F- Cauline leaves of fertile shoot; G, H- Flowers; I- Fruit

Voucher specimens: A8 Artvin - Hatila Valley National Park, rocky places, roadsides, 559 m, 19.v.2012, KATO 18913!

KTUB 1097! *ibid.*, FK 17305 (OMUB!), FK 18250 *ibid.*, 23.v.2011 (OMUB!) (Figure 2).

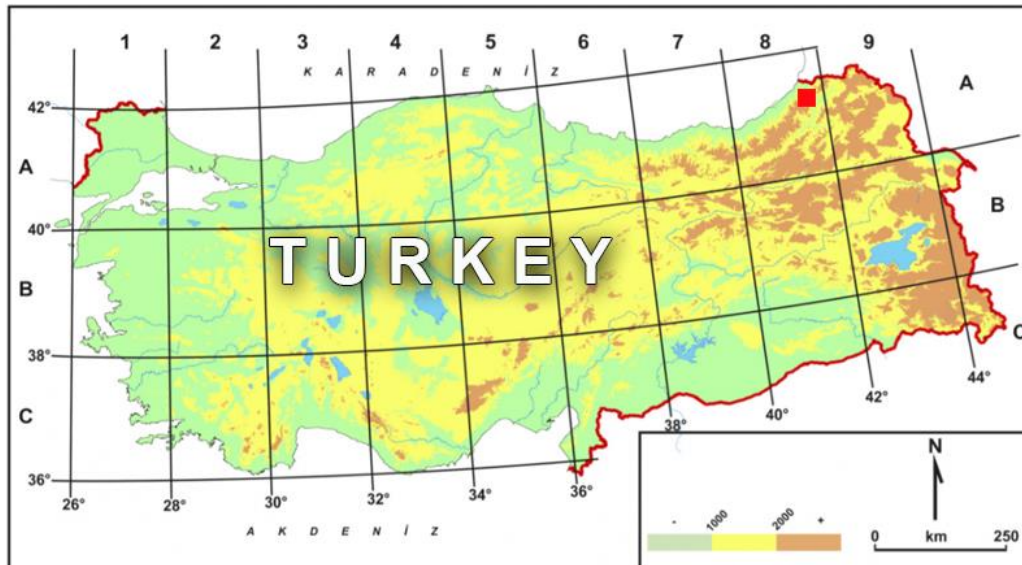


Figure 2. Distribution of *Cerastium szowitsii* () in Turkey (Adapted from Güner & Ekim, 2014)

Alpine and subalpine rocks, at altitudes of 2000-3300 m in Caucasus (E. and S. Transc.), Armenia (Type: Armenia Rossica, mont Kias in G).

C. szowitsii is close to *C. banaticum* by having mostly with sterile shoots in their axils and two of them are located in the section *Cerastium*. Differently, *C. banaticum* have retrorsely scabrid-pilose stems; linear to very narrowly lanceolate, pilose or rarely glabrous leaves; ovate-lanceolate, 5-6 mm sepals; 7-11 mm petals. Moreover, the leaves of *C. szowitsii* are lanceolate to linear-lanceolate, white-tomentose; sepals lanceolate, 7-8 mm; petals 14-16 mm; stem erect, white-tomentose except in lower part. *C. szowitsii* is perennial plant with reduced sterile shoots, stem erect, white-tomentose that closely resembles *C. gnaphalodes* but is easily distinguished by the bracts completely herbaceous and leaves \pm linear, mostly with sterile shoots in their axils.

In Turkey (Artvin), *C. szowitsii* grows at altitude of 500–600 m on volcanic rocky slopes, in cracks and ledges on near-vertical cliffs of the Hatila Valley National Park. It apparently favours environmentally harsh, sparsely degraded forests. The soil is likely well drained. Degraded forest vegetation is

especially widespread in the upper part of the valley and includes species of the *Quercus-Fagea* super class from plant sociological point of view, with the shrubs such as *Crataegus microphylla*, *C. monogyna*, *Acer campestre* subsp. *campestre*, *Buxus sempervirens*, *Quercus macranthera* subsp. *sysspirensis*, *Q. pubescens* and *Carpinus orientalis*.

It is a hemicryptophyte species and the most important associated species of which are (taxa endemic to Turkey in boldface) *Erysimum thyrsoides* subsp. *ponticum*, *Moehringia trinervia*, *Saxifraga paniculata*, *Phedimus spurius*, *Sedum obtusifolium*, *S. hispanicum* var. *hispanicum*, *S. album*, *Cistus creticus*, *Sempervivum glabrifolium*, *Thesium billardieri*, *Linaria coriifolia*, *Verbascum naticum*, *Clinopodium vulgare*, *Scutellaria salviifolia* and *Lapsana communis*.

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