



A new species and a new combination of *Omphalodes* (*Boraginaceae*) from Türkiye

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Omphalodes (*Boraginaceae*) için Türkiye'den yeni bir tür ve yeni bir kombinasyon

Abstract: *Omphalodes turcica* is described, shortly introduced, and illustrated as a new species from the North of Türkiye. It is a distinct species, easily distinguishable from its close relatives by its longer pedicels, smaller corollas, and larger nutlets. In habit, flower color, and leaf shape, it resembles *Omphalodes luciliae*, which is known from Türkiye, Iraq, and Iran. Also, a new species-level combination, *Omphalodes pisidica* (*O. luciliae* subsp. *pisidica*), is proposed based on a subspecies described from Isparta and Antalya Provinces (Türkiye).

Key words: Description, new combination, new species, *Omphalodes luciliae*, taxonomy

Özet: *Omphalodes turcica*, Türkiye'nin kuzeyinden yeni bir tür olarak tanımlanmış, kısaca tanıtılmış ve resimlendirilmiştir. Daha uzun çiçek sapları, daha küçük taç yaprakları ve daha büyük meyveleri ile yakın akrabalarından kolayca ayırt edilebilen, farklı bir türdür. Görünümü, çiçek rengi ve yaprak şekli bakımından, Türkiye, Irak ve İran'dan bilinen *Omphalodes luciliae*'ye benzer. Ayrıca, Isparta ve Antalya illerinden (Türkiye) tanımlanan bir alt türe dayanarak, *Omphalodes pisidica* (*O. luciliae* subsp. *pisidica*) şeklinde yeni bir tür düzeyinde kombinasyon önerilmektedir.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Betimleme, *Omphalodes luciliae*, taksonomi, yeni kombinasyon, yeni tür

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1. Introduction

Omphalodes Mill., comprising 26 species in the world, is a medium-sized genus in the Boraginaceae (tribe Cynoglosseae) family (WFO, 2025). The genus, which resemble *Myosotis* species in terms of leaf, calyx, and corolla characteristics, are quite different in terms of nutlet characteristics. Nutlets are depressed-globose to discoid and incurved winged in *Omphalodes* species (not smooth and glossy).

Except *Omphalodes cappadocica* DC., all taxa of the genus growing in Türkiye, including the recently described *O. nedimeae* Aykurt & Sümbül, are casmophytes (Edmondson, 1978; Davis et al., 1988; Mill, 2011; Aykurt et al., 2021).

Most of the chasmophytic *Omphalodes* taxa grow in rock crevices in the Western, Central, and Anti-Taurus Mountains in southern Türkiye. The specimens presented here represent the northernmost occurrence of chasmophytic *Omphalodes* taxa in Türkiye. With the introduction of this new species and new combination, the number of *Omphalodes* species in Türkiye has increased to seven, and the number of taxa to ten.

2. Materials and Method

Nature enthusiast Hacı Mustafa Uçar photographed an interesting *Omphalodes* specimen in the Almus District of Tokat Province in northern Türkiye in June 2025. The photographs were subsequently sent to the first author of this manuscript. These specimens were assessed linked with

Omphalodes luciliae by first author but also they are found quite strange interns of its distribution and habitus and decided to examine them in detail. In July 2025, a large of specimens were collected and comprehensively examined using relevant literature (Edmondson, 1978; Davis et al., 1988, Mill, 2011; Aykurt et al., 2021), as well as specimens present in the herbaria E, K, and GAZI. All measurements were taken to the nearest 0.1 mm, and both floral and vegetative characters were examined under a stereo zoom microscope.

3. Results

Omphalodes turcica Hamzaoğlu, sp. nov. (Figs. 1-2).

Type: TÜRKİYE. Tokat: Almus, Çevreli town, Sivrin Mountain, west of Gürgenboynu Yaylası, 1770 m a.s.l., 21 July 2025, calcareous rock crevices, *E.Hamzaoğlu 8255*, *M.Koç & H.M.Uçar* (holotype: GAZI!; isotype: GAZI!; ANK!; HUB!).

Diagnosis: *Omphalodes turcica* is related to *O. luciliae*, but is distinguished by the corolla wide 7.8-9.4 mm (not 10.2-12.8 mm); the corolla tube 2-2.5 mm long (not 2.8-4.2 mm long); the nutlets 4.8-6.1 × 3.8-4.5 mm (not 2.7-3.9 × 1.9-3.1 mm), and the nutlet wing with erose margin (not entire).

Description: Chasmophyte perennial with several flowering and numerous sterile shoots. Stems 10-20 cm long, ascending to prostrate or trailing, subterete, dark green, glabrous. Leaves glabrous, usually white waxy-dotted below, lateral nerves inconspicuous. Sterile shoot



Figure 1. *Omphalodes turcica*. Habit and habitat

leaves long petiolate; petioles as long as or longer than lamina, narrowly winged, 3-11 cm long, outer ones withered at anthesis; lamina ovate to ovate-elliptic, 1.5-6.5 × 1.2-3.3 cm, decurrent into petiole, mucronate at apex. Flowering stem leaves petiolate to sessile; lower petiolate, withered at anthesis; middle short petiolate or sessile, ovate-elliptic, 1.5-3.5 × 1.1-2.5 cm; upper sessile and smaller. Flowers in terminal bracteates cymes, 4-13-flowered. Pedicels 14-32 mm long in flower, to 45 mm long in fruit, slender, as long as or longer than bracts, glabrous, pendant to arcuate-recurved. Calyx 3-4 mm long in flower, to 9 mm long in fruit, lobed to 2/3-4/5, green; lobes 2.1-3.1 mm long in flower, to 7 mm long in fruit, erecto-patent, lanceolate to ovate, acuminate to acute at apex. Corolla 4-6 mm in diameter, subrotate, pale blue or initially powder pink, later pale blue; tube 2-2.5 mm long; limb 3-4 mm long, ± flat, divided slightly more than halfway into oblong-suborbicular, rounded lobes; throat with five whitish

saccate invaginations, each invagination 0.6-0.8 × 1-1.2 mm. Stamens short, included; anthers 1.2-1.5 mm long. Style short, included, 0.9-1.3 mm long, indurate, erect or arcuate-recurved. Nutlets pyriform, arranged in a broad pyramid, 4.8-6.1 × 3.8-4.5 mm; wing incurved, 0.5-0.6 mm wide, margin erose.

Etymology: The newly identified species was named after Türkiye, the country where it grows.

Proposed vernacular name: The new species is known in Turkish as "Almus Süreyresi".

Phenology: The species flowers from June to July and fruits from July to August.

Distribution and habitat: *Omphalodes turcica* is known only from the type locality, the Sivrin Mountain between Tokat and Sivas, Türkiye, where it usually grows at elevations between 1750 and 1800 m a.s.l. The species prefers calcareous rock crevices (Fig. 3).

Conservation status: According to available data, *Omphalodes turcica* is known only from the Tokat Province (Northern Türkiye). Approximately 80 adult individuals were observed in the type locality, in rock crevices on Sivrin Mountain in the Almus District (Tokat Province). Since the individuals grow in the crevices of cliffs, these areas are unlikely to be suitable for agriculture or settlement. On the other hand, similar limestone cliffs could be quarried as stone or marble. Furthermore, the fact that it is currently known from only one locality is a cause for concern for the species' future. Although currently known from only one locality (i.e., AOO 3 km²), *Omphalodes turcica* is highly likely to grow in a similar habitat covering approximately 30 km² (i.e., EOO) around Sivrin Mountain. When the envisaged threats are evaluated, the taxon was assessed to be Critically Endangered [CR B1ab(i)] according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list criteria (IUCN, 2024).

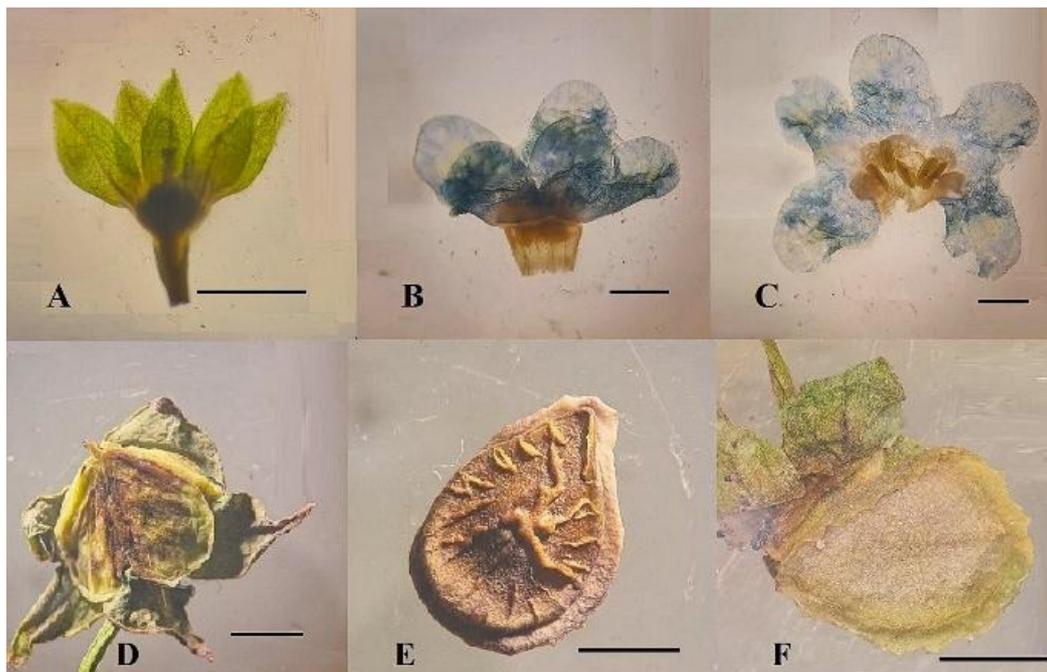


Figure 2. *Omphalodes turcica*. A: Calyx. B: Corolla (side view). C: Corolla (dissected). D: Immature nutlets. E: Mature nutlet (outer surface). F: Mature nutlet (inner surface) (Scale bar: 2 mm).

Omphalodes pisidica (R.R.Mill) Hamzaoglu, **comb. & stat. nov.**

Basionym: *Omphalodes luciliae* Boiss. subsp. *pisidica* R.R.Mill (Mill, 2011).

Type: TÜRKİYE. Isparta: distr. Sütçüler, Dedegöl Dağ at Dedegöl Tarn [now within the borders of Yenişarbademli district], 2300 m a.s.l., 3 August 1949, shady rocks, *P.H.Davis 16027* (holotype: E00326631!, virtual image).

It resembles *Omphalodes luciliae* and *O. turcica* in habit. However, the upper surface of the leaves and the margin of the calyx lobes are hairy (not glabrous), and the nutlets are c. 0.3 mm winged and subentire. Also, the corolla width is 8.6-10 mm (10.2-12.8 mm in *O. luciliae*), the corolla tube is 2.2-2.6 mm long (2.8-4.2 mm in *O. luciliae*), and the nutlets are c. 3.5 x 3 mm (4.8-6.1 x 3.8-4.5 mm in *O. turcica*) (Table 1).

Phenology: The species flowers from July and fruits from August.

Distribution and habitat: *Omphalodes pisidica* is known only two locality, the Dedegöl Mountain between Sütçüler and Yenişarbademli (Isparta, Türkiye) and the Bozburun Mountain in north of Serik (Antalya, Türkiye), where it usually grows at elevations between 1900 and 2300 m a.s.l. The species prefers conglomerate rocks (Fig. 3).

Conservation status: According to available data, *Omphalodes pisidica* is known only from the Isparta and Antalya Provinces (Southern Türkiye). Since the individuals grow in the conglomerate rocks, these areas are unlikely to be suitable for agriculture or settlement. Furthermore, the fact that it is currently known from only two locality is a cause for concern for the species' future. Although currently known from only two locality (i.e., AOO 6 km²), *Omphalodes pisidica* is highly likely to grow in a similar habitat covering approximately 900 km² (i.e., EOO) around Dedegöl and Bozburun Mountains. When the envisaged threats are evaluated, the taxon was assessed to be Vulnerable [VU B2ab(i)] according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list criteria (IUCN, 2024).

Additional specimens examined: *Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *luciliae*: TÜRKİYE. Antalya: Kemer, Tahtalı Dağ, 2200-2300 m, 16 August 1947, *P.H.Davis 14138* (E00813448!, virtual image; K005627881!, virtual image); **Muğla:** [Fethiye] Babadağ, shady crevices, 2135 m, 19 June 1938, *P.H.Davis 254* (E00813445!, virtual image). ***Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *cilicica*: TÜRKİYE. [Kahramanmaraş]:** Göksun, Binboğa Dağ, above Yalak, shady rocks, 2300-2400 m, *P.H.Davis 20121 & Dodds* (E00813456!, virtual image; K005627870!, virtual image); **[Ekinözü]** Engizek Dağı, between Akpınar Village and Büyükyeşil Yaylası, rock crevices, 2200-2250 m, 1 June 1988, *H.Duman 3973* (GAZI!, 2 sheets); *ibid.*, Düdüklüpnar Deresi, rock crevices, 1900-2100 m, *H.Duman 4238* (GAZI!, 2 sheets); **Kayseri:** Pınarbaşı, between Mezgitli and Değirmentaş Villages, Soğanlı Dağı, Aslanbeyli Yaylası, 2200-2300 m, 27 May 2008, *B.Bani 5982* (GAZI!); Sarız, Yalak, Binboğa Dağı, around Tekke Kayası, rocks, 23 July 1992, *Z.Aytaç 5496* (GAZI!); **[Niğde]:** [Çamardı] In the Ala Dağlar, on Demirkazık, shady rock crack, 3355 m, 1 September 1965, *G.W.D.Findlay 222* (E00813452!, virtual image); *ibid.*,

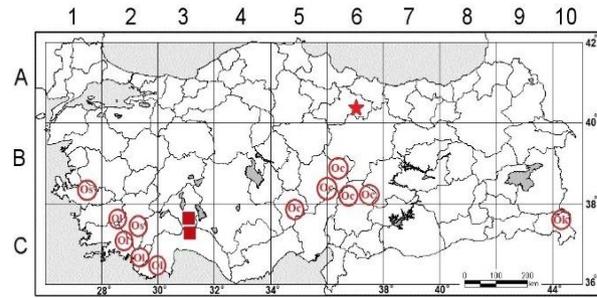


Figure 3. Distribution map of *Omphalodes turcica* (★), *O. pisidica* (■), *O. luciliae* (“O” inside the circle; Ol - subsp. *luciliae*, Oc - subsp. *cilicica*, Ok - subsp. *kurdica*, and Os - subsp. *scopulorum*) in Türkiye.

Demirkazık Dağı, Narpuz Boğazı, rock crevices, 2000-2500 m, 26 September 1994, *M.Vural 7210* (GAZI!); *ibid.*, rock crevices, 2100 m, 19 June 1996, *M.Vural 7473* (GAZI!, 4 sheets); Aladağ, Narpiz Gorge near Kayarcik Cave-Upper Arpalik Gorge and cave, fissures in rock walls, caves, 2060-2190 m, 18 June 1963, *E.Parry 1* (E00813459!, virtual image); *ibid.*, on rock face, facing west near snow sheet, small hole with little soil, 2620 m, 15 August 1965, *P.Alderton 34* (K005627865!, virtual image); [Ulukışla] Bulghar Magara, 2700 m, ?.?.1896, *W.Siehe 505* (E00285606!, virtual image, isotype; K005627869!, virtual image); Bolkar Dağ (above Maden), 2745 m, 30 July 1969, *J.Darrah 490* (E00813450!, virtual image); Bolkar Dağ, between Alibaba & Saritepe Yayla, on the limestone cliffs, 2500 m, 3 September 1949, *P.H.Davis 16537* (E00813458!, virtual image). ***Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *kurdica*: TÜRKİYE. Hakkari:** [Yüksekova] Vadinazor Hill, 22 km N.E. of Yüksekova, 2000 m, N.-N.E. aspect chasmophyte on large shaded limestone walls at head of S.-S.E. mountain gully leading to upper slopes, 13 June 1977, *J.Watson 5627* (E00813460!, virtual image); **İRAN. Lorestan:** Bakhtiari, the Laieh Sabz, in Zardeh Kuh, 4140 m, crevices and fissures on sheer N. and N.W. facing limestone cliffs, 5 August 1966, *J.C.Archibald 3008* (E00813461!, virtual image); Bakhtiari, Tang-i-Sirdan, between the Kurang and Bazuft valleys, 4140 m. shady, N. Facing fissures on W. Facing limestone cliffs, 7 August 1966, *J.C.Archibald 3048* (E00813462!, virtual image). ***Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *pisidica*: TÜRKİYE. Antalya:** [Serik] Bozburun Dağ, above Tozlu Çukur Yayla, in shady conglomerate rocks, 1900-2100 m, 25 July 1949, *P.H.Davis 15609* (E00813446!, virtual image); **Isparta:**, Sütçüler, Dedegöl Dağ at Mountain at Dedegöl ???, shady rocks, 2300 m, 3 August 1949, *P.H.Davis 16027* (E00326631!, virtual image, holotype; K005627880!, virtual image, isotype); Sütçüler, Dedegöl Dağ, N. cliffs, 2200 m, 2 August 1949, *P.H.Davis 15990* (E00813447!, virtual image). ***Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *scopulorum*: TÜRKİYE. Denizli:** [Acıpayam], above Boz Dağ, Geyran Yayla, 1520-1680 m, *P.H.Davis 13429* (ANK!; E00813464!, virtual image; K005627874!, virtual image); *ibid.*, Olukbaşı Village, W of Geyran Yaylası, rock crevices, 1450 m, 4 July 1997, *Z.Aytaç 7651* (GAZI!); **İzmir:** Kemalpaşa, in crevices of vertical limestone cliffs on the upper slope of Nif Mountain, 30 May 1966, *R.Alava 4878*, *G.Bocquet & C.Regel* (E00813454!, virtual image); Montis Sipyli, 1200 m, in regione alpine, 10 June 1906, *J.Bornmüller 9793* (E00813463!, virtual image); Fentes des rochers perpendiculaires situes au-dessous du sommet occidental

Table 1. Morphological comparison of *Omphalodes turcica* with the *O. luciliae* (*Ol.*: *Omphalodes luciliae*) and *O. pisidica*

Characters	<i>O. turcica</i>	<i>Ol.</i> subsp. <i>scopulorum</i>	<i>Ol.</i> subsp. <i>luciliae</i>	<i>Ol.</i> subsp. <i>cilicica</i>	<i>Ol.</i> subsp. <i>kurdica</i>	<i>O. pisidica</i>
Leaves lower surface	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	scattered very short white setules from shortulate bases
Calyx lobes	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	glabrous	shortly setulose on margin
Corolla wide (pressed)	7.8-9.4 mm	10.2-12 mm	10.4-12.1 mm	11-12.8 mm	10.8-12.3 mm	8.6-10 mm
Corolla tube	2-2.5 mm long	2.8-3.1 mm long	3.3-4.2 mm long	3.6-4.2 mm long	3.3-4.1 mm long	2.2-2.6 mm long
Corolla limb	3-4 mm long	3.6-4.1 mm long	3.4-4.4 mm long	4.3-5.1 mm long	4.3-5.2 mm long	3.5-4.5 mm long
Nutlets	4.8-6.1 × 3.8-4.5 mm	2.9-3.7 × 1.9-2.1 mm	3.1-3.9 × 2.3-2.5 mm	2.7-3.2 × 2.7-3.1 mm	3.1-3.6 × 2.2-2.6 mm	c. 3.5 × 3 mm
Nutlet wing	0.5-0.6 mm wide, margin erose	0.5-0.6 mm wide, margin entire	0.7-0.8 mm wide, margin entire	0.9-1.1 mm wide, margin entire	0.4-0.5 mm wide, margin entire	c. 0.3 mm wide, margin subentire

du Mont Sipyle, au dessus de Magnesie, 19 June 1854, *B.Balansa* 367 (K000998404!, virtual image, isotype).

4. Discussions

Currently, five species of the genus *Omphalodes* are found in Türkiye: *O. cappadocica*, *O. ripleiana* P.H.Davis, *O. luciliae*, *O. davisiana* Kit Tan & Sorger, and *O. nedimeae* (Edmondson, 1978; Davis et al., 1988; Aykurt et al., 2021). Of these, *Omphalodes cappadocica* prefers forest and shrub clearings (*Castanea* Mill. and *Corylus* L.) at altitudes of 20-1000 m a.s.l., shady areas, and moist rock outcrops. This species, which has a hemicryptophyte life form, possesses horizontal roots that develop in terrestrial habitats. This species, found in Georgia and northeastern Türkiye, differs from all other *Omphalodes* species -including *O. turcica* described here- in terms of habitat preference and life form (Edmondson, 1978). All other *Omphalodes* species growing in Türkiye are chasmophytes with vertical or subvertical roots, preferring limestone rock fissures or fluid rock formations at altitudes of 1200-3300 m a.s.l. in the Aegean, Mediterranean, and Eastern Anatolian Regions of the south, west, and east of the country. *Omphalodes turcica*, identified from the Gürgenboynu Yaylası (Almus, Tokat) at the foothills of Mount Sivrin, is a chasmophyte species growing in limestone rock crevices. The species grows in the subalpine zone, in the transition zone between the Black Sea and the Inner Anatolian Regions. Due to its location, it is the northernmost known chasmophyte species in Türkiye.

Omphalodes cappadocica is easily distinguished from *O. turcica* by its absence of a chasmophyte, its ebracteate inflorescence, and its finely adpressed-pilose hairy leaves. *Omphalodes ripleiana*, while similar in habit to *O. turcica*, is quite different due to its large calyx (12 mm in diam. in the fruit), its milky-white corolla, and its inflexed-fimbriate nutlet margin (Edmondson, 1978).

Omphalodes nedimeae is an endemic species recently identified from the Bey Mountains (Antalya Province, Kumluca District). The distribution area of this chasmophyte species overlaps with *O. luciliae*, but it differs significantly in the dense strigose hairs covering its stem, leaves, calyx, and nutlets. This pubescence characteristic is not observed in any other chasmophyte species known from

Türkiye, including *O. turcica*. Although *Omphalodes nedimeae* and *O. turcica* have similar habitat preferences and habits, their distribution areas do not overlap (Fig. 3). These two species differ considerably in terms of pubescence, corolla diameter, and nutlets characteristics (Edmondson, 1978; Aykurt et al., 2021).

Omphalodes davisiana is an endemic species growing on the rocky slopes of the alpine zone (2700 m a.s.l.) of Sultan Baba Mountain (Eastern Anatolia, Tunceli Province) (Fig. 3). This species, which has subvertical roots, is the closest to *O. turcica* in terms of distribution area. On the other hand, *O. turcica* has larger pedicel, calyx, corolla, and nutlets dimensions (Edmondson, 1978; Davis et al., 1988). *Omphalodes turcica* differs considerably from *O. davisiana*, particularly in its large corolla tube (2-2.5 mm, not c. 0.8 mm), corolla limb (3-4 mm, not more than 0.8 mm), and nutlets (4.8-6.1 mm long, not 3.5-4.2 mm) (Davis et al., 1988).

Omphalodes luciliae is the richest species growing in Türkiye in terms of both chorological and morphological variation (Edmondson, 1978). This polytypic species has four subspecies: *Omphalodes luciliae* subsp. *luciliae*, subsp. *cilicica* (Brand) Bornm., subsp. *kurdica* Rech.f. & H.Riedl and subsp. *scopulorum* J.R.Edm. Of these, subsp. *luciliae* is endemic to southwestern Türkiye, and subsp. *cilicica* to the Anti-Taurus Mountains where the Inner Anatolian, Eastern Anatolian, and Mediterranean Regions intersect. Subsp. *scopulorum* grows in western Türkiye and Greece, while subsp. *kurdica* grows in southeastern Türkiye, northern Iraq, and western Iran (Fig. 3).

Generally, *Omphalodes turcica* is morphologically similar to *O. luciliae*. However, in *O. turcica*, the corolla tube (2-2.5 mm, not 2.8-4.2 mm) and limb (3-4 mm, not 3.4-5.2 mm) are shorter, but the nutlets (4.8-6.1 mm long, not 2.7-3.9 mm) are larger (Table 1).

Specimens of *Omphalodes pisidica* were collected by Davis from Dedegöl Mountain in Sütçüler District of Isparta Province (now within the borders of Yenişarbademli District) and Bozburun Mountain in Serik District of Antalya Province (Mill, 2011). Unlike *O. luciliae* and *O. turcica*, which prefer limestone rock crevices, these specimens, which prefer shaded areas of

conglomerate rocks, were evaluated as a subspecies under *O. luciliae* (Fakir, 2006; Mill, 2011). However, *Omphalodes pisidica* specimens differ from *O. luciliae* and *O. turcica* not only in terms of the type of bedrock in which they grow, but also in terms of pubescence, flower, and fruit size (Table 1).

The observed morphological differences are likely due to the preferred rock type. Given these morphological differences, the Isparta and Antalya specimens were evaluated as the species (Turland et al., 2018).

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Conflict of Interest

Authors have declared no conflict of interest.

Authors' Contribution

Authors contributed equally.

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