



Cousinia hystricocephala (section *Tianschanicae*, Asteraceae), a new species from Central Asia

ALEXANDER N. SENNIKOV^{1,2}

¹Botanical Museum, Finnish Museum of Natural History, P. O. Box 7, FI-00014 University of Helsinki, Finland. E-mail: alexander.sennikov@helsinki.fi

²Herbarium, Komarov Botanical Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Popov str. 2, RU-197376 St. Petersburg, Russia

Abstract

A new species of *Cousinia* section *Tianschanicae* is described from Western Tian-Shan (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan). This species belongs to the *C. tianschanica*-complex and was previously misidentified as *C. strobilocephala*. A species description, distribution map, and images of a herbarium specimen and a plant in nature are provided.

Key words: Compositae, *Cousinia strobilocephala*, *Cousinia tianschanica*, distribution maps, Kyrgyzstan, new taxa, Tajikistan, Tian-Shan, Uzbekistan

Introduction

The latest revision of *Cousinia* sect. *Tianschanicae* Sennikov (2010: 16) in the Western Tian-Shan of Kyrgyzstan (Sennikov 2010) showed that *C. tianschanica* Kultiassov (1925: 113) as accepted in Tscherneva (1993) is an assemblage of four species. These species share similar habitats of open gravelly slopes and are very similar to each other but distinct in the size of their capitula and phyllaries (Fig. 1) and in the shape of the apical anther appendages (Fig. 2). In addition to morphological differences, these species are vicarious in distribution. Two of the three species separated from *C. tianschanica* s. str. were described as new to science, namely *C. echinocephala* Sennikov (2010: 24) and *C. kasachstanica* Sennikov (2010: 21), and one more was treated as *C. strobilocephala* Tscherneva & Vvedensky (Tscherneva 1961: 62). The latter species had already been reported from Kyrgyzstan (Nikitina 1965) on the basis of specimens kept in Bishkek (FRU). Even though the line drawing of this species published in Tscherneva (1962b) was not in a perfect agreement with our specimens, we accepted this interpretation because the type specimen of *C. strobilocephala* kept in Tashkent (TASH) was inaccessible.

After the publication of our account (Sennikov 2010), we obtained an image of the holotype of *C. strobilocephala* that appeared to belong to a separate species, different from our “*C. strobilocephala*” in even a larger, densely lanate (not loosely tomentose) capitula and blunt (not long acute) apical anther appendages. It may be a local endemic of Uzbekistan, still not found in Kyrgyzstan in spite of the geographical proximity. The affinity of *C. strobilocephala* is also with the *C. tianschanica* complex, but its micromorphological characters should be studied to identify its closest relative.

The species called “*C. strobilocephala*” in Sennikov (2010) receives its proper name here. The present treatment is based on Sennikov (2010) with minor corrections and additions.