



A new species of *Leopoldia* (Asparagaceae) from Iran

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Abstract

Leopoldia tijtjensis Jafari (Asparagaceae) from western of Iran (Kurdistan province) is newly described. It is similar to *L. tenuiflora* but differs in having dense cylindrical-conical raceme not lax cylindrical, purple-violet fertile flowers not green-brown, purple sterile flowers not pale violet, oblong urceolate fertile flower not tubular urceolate, triangular capsule not ovoid-cordate.

Key words: *Leopoldia tijtjensis*, Asparagaceae, new species, Iran

Introduction

Leopoldia Parl. is a genus of bulbous plant traditionally belonging to Liliaceae, subfamily Lilioideae, tribe Scilleae (Engler 1887). Then it was placed in Hyacinthaceae, subfamily Hyacinthoideae and tribe Hyacintheae (Speta 1998) and more recently, in the Asparagaceae, subfamily Scilloideae (APGIII 2009). According to Davis and Stuart, *Leopoldia* is one of the subgenera of *Muscari* (Davis & Stuart 1966, 1980, Stuart 1966) while, Garbari and Greuter regard *Muscari* s.l. as comprising four genera: *Leopoldia* Parl., *Muscari* Mill., *Muscarimi* Kostel and *Pseudomuscari* Garbari & Greuter (Garbari & Greuter 1970). *Leopoldia* comprises about 12 species (Govaerts & Zona 2008, Jafari & Maassoumi 2011) distributed in Europe, the Mediterranean area and SW Asia (Losinskaya 1935, Davis & Stuart 1966, 1980, Stuart 1966, Garbari & Greuter 1970, Davis 1984, Feinbrun 1986, Rechinger 1990, Jafari & Maassoumi 2011). Rechinger treats, *Leopoldia* as a subgenus of *Muscari* with four species in Iran (Rechinger 1990). In the latest review, the number of Iranian *Leopoldia* species is increased to five (Jafari & Maassoumi 2011). The genus has Pan-Mediterranean origin (Garbari & Greuter 1970).

During fieldwork for the Flora of Iran project in May 2010, some interesting specimens of *Leopoldia* were collected from Tijtj in Kurdistan province (western Iran). After comparison materials, including type specimens from B, K, E, S, P, GB, BG, G, NAP, W, WU, TARI (herbarium abbreviations after Holmgren & Holmgren 2001), a new species was identified and is here described as *Leopoldia tijtjensis*.

Key to the Iranian *Leopoldia* species

1. Tunics of bulb pinkish. Lobes of fertile flowers brown-cream 2
1. Tunics of bulb ivory. Lobes of fertile flowers blackish..... 3
2. Pedicle of sterile flowers longer than flowers, ascending *L. comosa* (L.) Parl.
2. Pedicle of sterile flowers equal and shorter than flowers, horizontal to arcuate *L. caucasica* (Griseb.) Losinsk.
3. Pedicle of fertile flowers shorter than flowers or sessile, fertile flowers campanulate
..... *Leopoldia ghoushtchiensis* Jafari & Maassoumi
3. Pedicle of fertile flowers longer than or equal with flowers, fertile flowers tubular or tubular-campanulate 4