



Article

A bibliographic note on the first checklist of vascular plants of Zomin (also Zaamin, formerly Guralash) Nature Reserve, Uzbekistan

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Abstract

A bibliographic review of the first checklist of Zomin (formerly Guralash) Nature Reserve is presented, and the nomenclatural novelties appearing in this checklist are re-assessed. Twelve new names were introduced in two editions of the checklist, of which six were new species and two were new varieties. This review brings to light the overlooked but validly published combinations *Aster altaicus* var. *canescens* (Asteraceae) and *Eremostachys speciosa* var. *brevicaulis* (Lamiaceae). The name *Eremurus chloranthus* (Asphodelaceae) is found validly published but *Henningia chlorantha* is not. The valid publication of *Scutellaria glabrata* (Lamiaceae) is discussed.

Key words: bibliography, Central Asia, nomenclature, valid publication

Introduction

Zomin (Russian spelling “Zaamin”) Nature Reserve is situated in Uzbekistan (Jizzax Region, Baxmal and Zomin Districts), on the northern side of the western part of Turkestan Range (part of the Pamir-Alay mountain system). After preliminary investigations (1926–1927) it was established in 1928 as Zomin Archa Nature Reserve in order to preserve significantly extensive ‘archa’ (*Juniperus* sp.) forests in the valley of Guralash River. The protected area was originally limited to ca 4.000 ha only (Lim 1999).

The nature reserve was abandoned in 1934, when destructive experiments with keeping rabbits in wild, as well as illegal exploitation of timber were coupled with political pressure towards making a “better use” of lands for production of “practical” things as e.g. food, wood and wool. Its re-establishment happened in 1937 under the name of Guralash Nature Reserve.

Strict legal protection continued until 1951, when the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev claimed that maintaining nature reserves would be a waste of lands, and scientific observations in nature reserves are a waste of government resources. The whole Soviet system of nature protection had been nearly abandoned for political reasons in those times; in 1960 the nature reserve was re-established and expanded to accommodate part of Zomin River basin, taking the new name of Zomin (Zaamin) Mountain-Archa Nature Reserve (Lim 1999). The present-day protected territory is 26.840 ha, of which 22.137 ha are forested.

The first checklist of the flora of Zomin Nature Reserve

The flora of Zomin Nature Reserve was first studied by two botanists, Mikhail G. Popov (Central-Asian State University, now National University of Uzbekistan, Tashkent) and Nikolai V. Androsov (Main Museum of Central Asia, now State Museum of Nature of Uzbekistan, Tashkent), who visited the territory briefly in 1926.