



Two new species of *Zeravschania* (Umbelliferae) and some additional notes on the genus

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Abstract

Two new species, *Zeravschania latifolia* from Ghorat province of Afghanistan, and *Z. kopetdaghensis* from Turkmenistan, are described and illustrated. *Zeravschania latifolia* differs from the closely related *Z. membranacea* in having broadly ovate (not narrowly linear) terminal leaf segments, and pure white (not pale yellow) petals. *Zeravschania kopetdaghensis* differs from the related *Z. stricticaulis* in the life form (polycarpic vs. monocarpic), petiolate subbipinnate leaves, lobed terminal leaf segments, and shorter umbel rays. A study of newly determined collections in Ferdowsi University in Mashhad (FUMH) has enabled us to add to a description of *Z. stricticaulis*. In total, the genus numbers now 11 species. A new key to all *Zeravschania* species has been compiled. A distribution map of the genus is presented with known localities of the two new species.

Key words: Afghanistan, Apiaceae, Iran, taxonomy, Turkmenistan, *Zeravschania latifolia*, *Z. kopetdaghensis*

Introduction

Although *Zeravschania* Korovin (1948: 28) was described as a monotypic genus from the Western Pamiro-Alai Mountains (with the type *Z. regeliana* Korovin 1948: 28), it is now treated as a genus with nine species (Pimenov 1983, 1987, 1988, Rechinger 1987, Pimenov *et al.* 2007), distributed from Transcaucasia and Western Iran to Pamiro-Alai, Afghanistan and Pakistan (Fig. 1). Korovin (1948) suggested that *Zeravschania* might be related to *Carum* Linnaeus (1753: 263) and other close taxa (“Genus fructuum structura ad genus *Carum* L. et affinia appropinquat...”). Later, however, mature fruits of *Z. regeliana* and other species were collected, and a study of these indicated that the generic affinity should rather be sought among the platyspermous Umbelliferae. Morphological and molecular data revealed that the genera *Dichoropetalum* Fenzl (1842: 17), *Johrenia* Candolle (1829: 54), *Demavendia* Pimenov (1987: 450) and *Hausknechtia* Boissier (1872: 960) are closely related to *Zeravschania* (Valiejo-Roman *et al.* 2006, Pimenov *et al.* 2007). Recent studies revealed additional two species new to science, which are described here.

A new species from Western Afghanistan

Among herbarium specimens provided by the late Prof. K.H.Rechinger for the Umbelliferae treatment in the “Flora Iranica”, there were some enigmatic sheets of unclear generic attribution due to incomplete collections (often without mature fruits). From this collection we now describe a new species of *Zeravschania*, which has broad terminal leaf segments that are rather unusual for the genus.