



## *Scutellaria yildirimlii* (Lamiaceae), a new species from Turkey

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### Abstract

A new species, *Scutellaria yildirimlii*, is described from gypseous slopes of inner Anatolia, Turkey, and illustrated. The new species resembles *S. pectinata*, but it differs in densely lanate hairs, its greyish dwarf prostrate and mat-forming habit, and strongly revolute leaves.

**Key words:** Endemic species, gypseous slopes, Lamiaceae, *Scutellaria*, taxonomy

### Introduction

*Scutellaria* Linnaeus (1753: 598), with 466 currently recognized species, is one of the largest genera in the family Lamiaceae (Govaerts *et al.* 2012). It shows a subcosmopolitan distribution whose species are mainly found on the temperate mountains in the tropics and Southern Hemisphere. The genus is absent in the Arctic regions of Northern Hemisphere, desert regions of North Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, the Amazon basin and the Australia continent except for Victoria and New South Wales. The most diversity occurs in Iran-Turanian phytogeographic region of Asia. In addition, East Mediterranean and Andes (in the North America) are considered as secondary centers (Paton 1990a–b).

*Scutellaria* was represented by 37 taxa at specific and subspecific ranks under 16 species in Flora of Turkey (Davis 1980, Edmondson 1982, Greuter & Raus 1984, Greuter *et al.* 1986, Tan & Sorger 1987, Davis *et al.* 1988, Khokhrjakov 1997, Duman 2000). Later, two species of *Scutellaria*, one of which is natural hybrid, were added to Flora of Turkey (Çiçek & Ketenoglu 2011, Çiçek & Yaprak 2011). Finally, with one synonymization (Çiçek 2012) and the new species described here, the total number of Turkish *Scutellaria* has risen to 39 taxa.

During the taxonomic revision of Turkish *Scutellaria*, some interesting specimens were collected from gypseous soils in inner Anatolia. There was uncertainty as to the correct identity of these specimens, but at the time they were referred to *S. pectinata* Montbret & Aucher ex Benth (1836: 44) on the basis of the morphological similarities such as the inflorescence structure, the leaf shape and the growth habit. Further field work and collecting additional samples by the second author, have allowed a definitive taxonomic resolution of these Anatolian plants. As a result of adaptation to gypseous soils, a suite of morphological differences are shown to be unique and *S. yildirimlii* is formally described as new to science.