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Bellevalia pseudolongipes sp. nov. (Asparagaceae): a new species from southeastern Anatolia, Turkey

OSMAN KARABACAK[1*], HASAN YILDIRIM[2] & ESRA MARTIN[3]

[1]*Gazi University, Polatlı Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, 06900, Polatlı-Ankara, Turkey; email: okarabacak35@gmail.com*

[2]*Ege University, Faculty of Science, Department of Biology, 35100, Bornova-Izmir, Turkey*

[3]*Necmettin Erbakan University, Faculty of Science, Department of Biotechnology, 42090, Meram-Konya, Turkey*

[*]*author for correspondence*

Abstract

Bellevalia pseudolongipes (Asparagaceae) is described and illustrated as a new species from Siirt province in South Eastern Anatolia, Turkey. Diagnostic morphological characters, a full description and detailed illustrations are provided. It is morphologically similar to *B. longipes* but easily differs in both several morphological characters and chromosome number. The somatic chromosome number was determined as 2n = 12 in *B. pseudolongipes*.

Key words: taxonomy, chromosome number, Hyacintheae, Scilloideae, Siirt

Introduction

The genus *Bellevalia* Lapeyrouse (1808: 425) (Asparagaceae) comprises about 65 species and subspecies (Bareka *et al.* 2008, Jafari & Maassoumi 2008) distributed over the Mediterranean region from Morocco and Algeria eastwards to the Caucasus and Iran and subdivided into six sections: *Nutantes* Feinbrun (1940: 337), *Conicae* Feinbrun (1940: 337), *Bellevalia* (= *Patentes* Feinbrun 1940: 337) *Muscarioides* Feinbrun (1940: 337), *Strangweja* (Bertoloni 1835: 2) Persson & Wendelbo (1979: 65), and *Oxyodontae* Losina–Losinskaja ex Wendelbo (1980: 423) (Borzatti von Loewenstern *et al.* 2013). Generally, the morphological differences between taxa within *Bellevalia* are quite weak, but leaf width and pubescence, raceme shape and density, pedicel/perigone length ratio, tube/lobe ratio and perigone colour, anther and bud features (Cowley *et al.* 1994), as well as seed morphology are commonly used as basic features for species discrimination.

In her monograph, Feinbrun (1940) reported for Turkey 8 species. Wendelbo (1984) studied *Bellevalia* in Turkey and he reported 18 species, seven of which endemic to the country. In the following studies, *Bellevalia latifolia* Feinbrun (1940: 369) was reduced to a synonym of *B. olivieri* (Baker 1874: 8) Wendelbo (1985: 120) by Wendelbo (1985). Since then, six species were discovered. Three of these were given in the second supplement of Flora of Turkey (Özhatay 2000), and the remainder species [*B. leucantha* Persson (2006: 253), *B. malatyaensis* Uzunh. & H.Duman in Uzunhisarcıklı *et al.* (2013: 652) and *B. chrisii* Yıldırım & B.Şahin in Yıldırım *et al.* (2014: 10.1111/njb.00469)] were described after the second supplement of Flora of Turkey (Özhatay 2000). In another study, Johnson (2003) treated *B. pycnantha* (Koch 1849: 255) Losinskaja (1935: 310) as a synonym of *B. paradoxa* (Fischer & Meyer 1835: 30) Boissier (1882: 308). Tugay (2012) published the most recent checklist of *Bellevalia*. In this study, *B. glauca* (Lindley 1827: 1085) Kunth (1843: 309) is recorded, but these plants were later described as a distinct species, *B. chrisii* by Yıldırım *et.al* (2014). Now, the *Bellevalia* taxa number increased to 23, 13 of them endemic to Turkey.

Bellevalia longipes Post (1895: 165) is easily distinguished by quite elongate pedicels during fructification. It is distributed from Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria and Transcaucasia. In this study, *Bellevalia pseudolongipes* is described as a new species from Southeastern Turkey. It is closely related to *B. longipes* and sometimes can be found growing together with the former.

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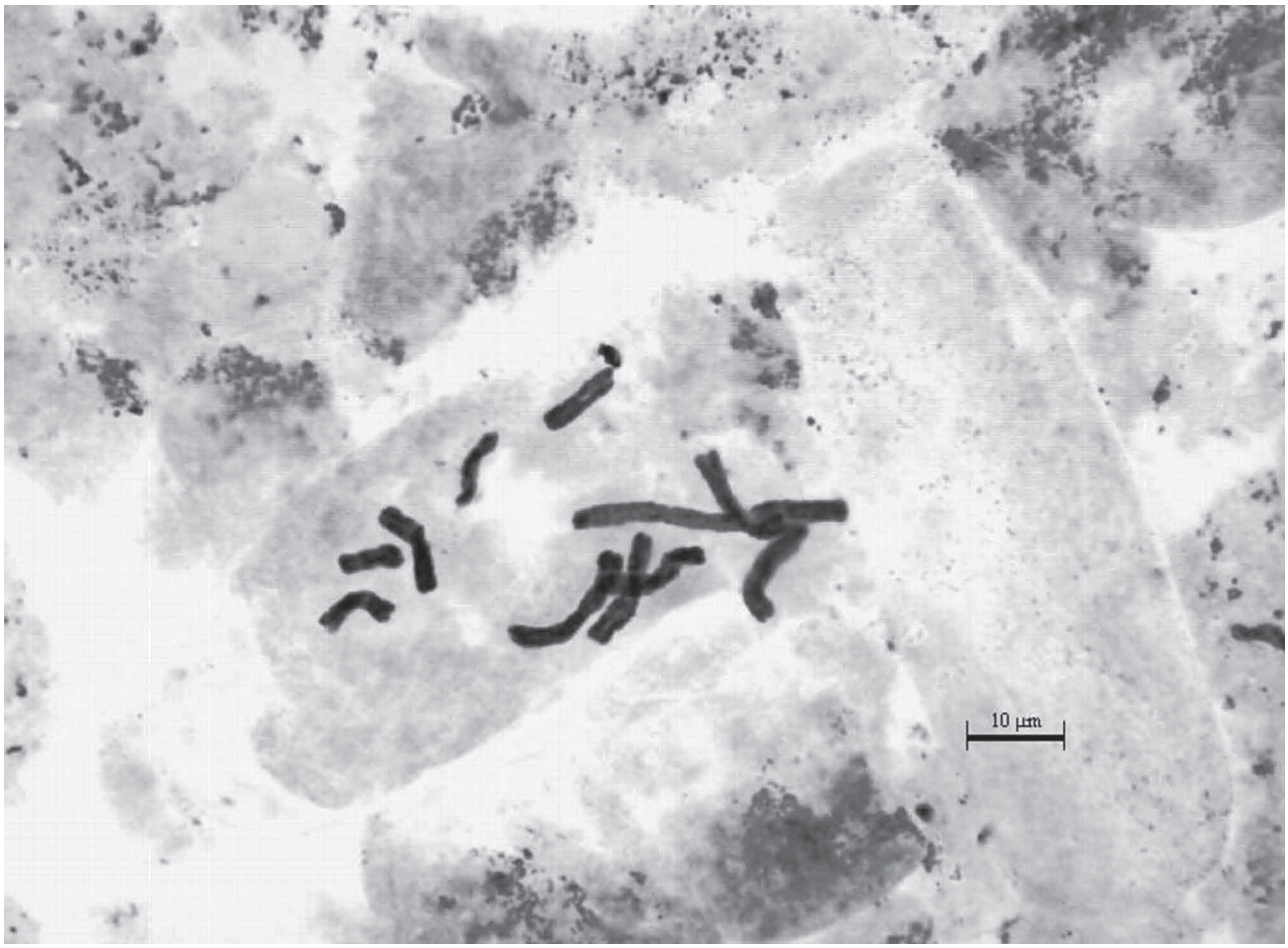

FIGURE 5. Somatic chromosomes in *Bellevalia pseudolongipes* Bar: 10 µm.

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