



Centaurea goksivriensis (Asteraceae), a new species from Turkey

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Abstract

Centaurea goksivriensis M. Bona, a new species of *C.* sect. *Acrocentron* from Hatay Province of Turkey, is described and illustrated. It is morphologically similar to *C. antiochia* var. *antiochia*, *C. carduiiformis*, and *C. urvillei* subsp. *armata* but differs mainly in its flower colour, indumentum and pappus. The IUCN conservation status of Critically Endangered (CR) should be applied to *C. goksivriensis*.

Key words: Compositae, endangered species, Hatay, taxonomy

Introduction

Centaurea Linnaeus (1753: 909) is one of the largest genera of the family Asteraceae. Among the more challenging taxonomic problems persisting in the Asteraceae is the delimitation of the genus *Centaurea* (Ranjbar *et al.* 2013), for which morphological, geographical and molecular research were used (Wagenitz & Hellwig 2000, Font *et al.* 2002, Greuter 2003a, b, Hellwig 2004, Susana & Garcia-Jacas 2006, 2007, 2009).

Recently *Centaurea* L. has been divided into four genera, namely *Centaurea*, *Rhaponticoides* Vaillant (1754: 165), *Psephellus* Cassini (1826a: 488) and *Cyanus* Miller (1754) (Wagenitz & Hellwig 2000, Greuter 2003a, b). *Cyanus* is not accepted usually as a different genus (Susanna & Garcia-Jacas 2007). It has been reported that *Centaurea sensu stricto* comprises 200 species (Font *et al.* 2009). The genus *Centaurea* was previously revised by Wagenitz (1975) in the *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands*. According to Wagenitz (1975), Turkey is one of the main centers of diversity of *Centaurea*, and the genus is the third largest genus in terms of species number in Turkey. In the Flora of Turkey, 172 plus six imperfectly known species of *Centaurea* were accepted (Wagenitz 1975). Since that many new taxa have been described: there are now 222 species and the level of endemism is 66.8 % (Wagenitz 1975, Davis *et al.* 1988, Güner *et al.* 2000, Özhatay *et al.* 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013, Çinbilgel *et al.* 2014, Bancheva *et al.* 2014, Bona 2015).

The genus *Acrocentron* was described by Cassini (1826b) to include species with large capitula and spiny, long, decurrent appendages. Subsequently, this genus was reduced to a section of *Centaurea* by Candolle (1838). In recent years, molecular, morphological and pollen studies of taxa within the section have been performed (Garcia-Jacas *et al.* 2001, Vilatersana *et al.* 2001, Font *et al.* 2002, 2009, Rahiminejad *et al.* 2010). *Centaurea* sect. *Acrocentron* (Cassini (1826b: 37) Candolle (1838: 586) is centred mainly in the Mediterranean region with approximately 100 species (Font *et al.* 2009, Rahiminejad *et al.* 2010). According to the *Flora of Turkey* (Wagenitz 1975, Davis *et al.* 1988), *C.* sect. *Acrocentron* comprises 17 species. Since then, two new species have been described in the section (Kaya & Vural 2007, Kultur 2010). In this paper, I describe another new species of *Centaurea* sect. *Acrocentron*.

Material and methods

Specimens of the new species were collected in Musa Mountain, part of the Amanos Mountains, in Hatay Province. These were compared with many specimens of *C. antiochia* Boissier (1849: 115) var. *antiochia*, *C. carduiiformis* Candolle (1838: 590), and *C. urvillei* subsp. *armata* Wagenitz (1972: 491), which are housed at the following herbaria: E, G, K, ISTE. A key has been prepared to distinguish between the species of *C.* sect. *Acrocentron* in Turkey.

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