



Salvia hasankeyfense (Lamiaceae), a new species from Hasankeyf (Batman, South-eastern Turkey)

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Abstract

The new species *Salvia hasankeyfense* (Lamiaceae) is here described and illustrated. It is confined to Hasankeyf ancient city, Batman, in South-eastern Turkey where it grows in rocky cracks. It is distinguished from the morphologically similar *Salvia verbenaca* by chiefly basal and stem leaf shape, size and indumentum, stem indumentum, and corolla colour. IUCN red list category, distribution map, notes on biogeography and ecology of the new species are also given.

Key words: endemic flora, Lamiaceae, *Salvia* sect. *Plethiosphace*, taxonomy

Introduction

Salvia Linnaeus (1753: 23) is the largest genus of Lamiaceae and is composed of nearly 950–1000 species and widely distributed in five regions of the world: central and south America (ca. 500–550 spp.), western Asia (ca. 200–220 spp. particularly in Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan and Russia), eastern Asia (ca. 100 spp., mainly in China and Japan), Africa (ca. 60 spp.), and Europe (ca. 36 spp.) (Alziar 1988–1999; Walker & Sysmsma 2007; Celep *et al.* 2014). Recent molecular studies (Walker & Sysmsma 2007, Will & Claßen-Bockhoff 2014) have shown that *Salvia* is non-monophyletic. Will *et al.* (2015) argued that the genus should be split into *Salvia* s.s. and several additional genera. Based on this concept, Will *et al.* (2015) elevated *Salvia* sect. *Eremosphace* Bunge (1873: 40–53) to the level of genus as *Pleudia* Rafinesque (1837: 94).

Turkey is one of the centres of diversity for *Salvia* in Old World (Celep *et al.* 2014). Boissier (1879), in his *Flora Orientalis*, recognized 75 species in Turkey. Hedge (1982) recognized 86 species in the Flora of Turkey. Since then, eight new species and two new varieties have been described, two species were re-evaluated, three new records have been added from Turkey (Celep *et al.* 2014, relevant the publications cited there in) and one variety was recognized at subspecies rank (Celep *et al.* 2011). In addition, very recently *S. ertekinii* Yıldırım (2008: 5) has been evaluated as a synonym of *S. pinnata* Linnaeus (1753: 27) and *S. pratensis* Linnaeus (1753: 25) has been confirmed from Turkey (Celep *et al.* 2015, accepted). With this new species, described here, Turkey is now home to 100 *Salvia* species, 53 (53%) of which are endemic.

In 2014, while conducting field work around the Hasankeyf ancient city, Batman province, authors (TD & ÖG) found an interesting *Salvia* population. Subsequently, specimens of this new species were collected from the same area in 2015 by the first author. Hasankeyf is a well-known ancient city, where settled down along the Dicle river (ancient Tigris river) and its history dates back to 10000 years ago (Ahunbay & Balkız 2009). The ancient city attracts many tourists because of its historical characters and natural beauty. However, in the future, part of the ancient city will be under the water because of the ongoing Ilisu Dam construction. In addition, the area is very close to Raman Mountain where there are some petroleum research and drilling stations.

The specimens collected from around the Hasankeyf ancient city in South-eastern Turkey were not matched with any previously known species. Therefore, it is described as a species new to science.