

A REMARKABLE NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS ASTRAGALUS WITH NO CLOSE RELATIVES FROM KERMANSHAH, IRAN

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Astragalus ciceropsis as a remarkable new species is described from Kermanshah, Iran. Systematic position of the new species is not clear within all known basifixed hairy sections of the genus *Astragalus*.

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یک گونه جدید منحصر به فرد از جنس گون در کرمانشاه، ایران

علی اصغر معصومی و بهنام حمزه

یک گونه منحصر به فرد از گون *Astragalus ciceropsis* بعنوان گونه جدید از کرمانشاه شرح داده می شود. موقعیت تاکسونومیک این گونه در میان بخش های شناخته شده روشن نمی باشد. تفاوت های مورفولوژیک فراوان با تعدادی از بخش های پیرامونی دارد. احتمال می رود که این گونه به بخش جدیدی تعلق داشته باشد که پس از مطالعات دقیق تر معرفی خواهد شد.

Astragalus ciceropsis Hamzehee & Maassoumi, **sp. nov.** e sect. (*Malacothrix* ?)
 Plantae perennes ca. 30-37 cm altae, procumbentes vel prostratae. Caudex multiceps, dense brevissime basifixis patenter albo-nigrosque pilosus, in stipulis, rachidis et inflorescentis insuper pilis nigris immixtis. Caulis ca. 35 cm longus, nodis undulatis, internodiis foliis brevioribus, prostratus, dense brevissime albo patenter pilosus. Stipulae virides, triangulares, ca. 3 mm longae, basi breviter petiolo adnatae, in facie opposito caulis inter se connatae, albo-nigrosque patenter pilosae. Folia 8-12 cm longa, petiolis abbreviatis, ca. 1-1.5 cm longis, sicut rachis dense albo-nigrosque patenter pilosa. Foliola 7 juga, oblonga vel anguste ovata, ca. 10-15 mm longa et 7-9 mm lata, obtusa, utrinque dense subpatenter albo-pilosa. Inflorescentiae racemosae, multiflorae in axillis foliorum superiorum; pedunculo 4-5 cm longo, erecto vel deflexo, dense albo-nigrosque patenter piloso. Bractae lineares, ca. 3 mm longae, dense patenter nigro pilosae. Pedicelli 4 mm longi, deflexi, nigro pilosi. Calyx tubulosus, ca. 12-13 mm longus, dense nigro patenter pilosus, dentibus subulatis ca. 2.5 mm longis. Corolla dense violacea, glabra. Vexillum 24 mm longum; lamina ovata-elliptica, 7-8 mm lata, antice rotundata, basi cunneata. Alae ca. 19 mm longae; lamina anguste elliptica, ca. 2 mm lata, unguem subaequans, antice rotundata, basi auriculata; auricla ca. 1.5 mm longa; unguis ca. 11 mm longis. Carina ca. 18 mm longa; lamina oblique elliptica, antice obtusa, ca. 7 mm longa et 2.5 mm lata, ungue 11 mm longo. Ovarium sessile, pilosum. Legumen sessile, anguste ovatum vel

ellipticum, dilatatum, ca. 15 mm longum, 6 mm altum et 7 mm latum, leviter rostratum, rostro curvato, dense longe et brevissime molliter, appresse pilosum, incomplete bilocalare valvis tenuibus; ventro carinato, dorso applanato vel leviter carinato.

Holotypus. Kermanshah: 25 km from Kermanshah to Sanandaj, Mahmoud abad (Meimon abad), 1710-1760 m, 9. 6. 2003 Hamzehee 83521 (TARI).

Morphological features of the new species apparently show some affinities with the species belonging to sect. *Glycyphyllos*, sect. *Hypoglottidei* and sect. *Hemiphaca*. A cylindrical calyx tube separates the new species from the species of sect. *Glycyphyllos* and sect. *Hemiphaca* with a campanulate calyx and its entire standard. Against beside emarginate wing-petals at the tips do not show close relationship with the species of sect. *Hypoglottidei*. For these reasons we prefer to attribute the new species to sect. *Malacothrix*. The new species show affinities with the species of sect. *Malacothrix* Bunge in some characters, but the inflated pods and dense capitate inflorescence separate this species nearly from all members of this section.

We believe that morphological characters segregate the new species from all known sections within basifixed hairy groups of *Astragalus*. Most probably this curious species represents a new section which is easily distinguishable from all known sections of *Astragalus*.

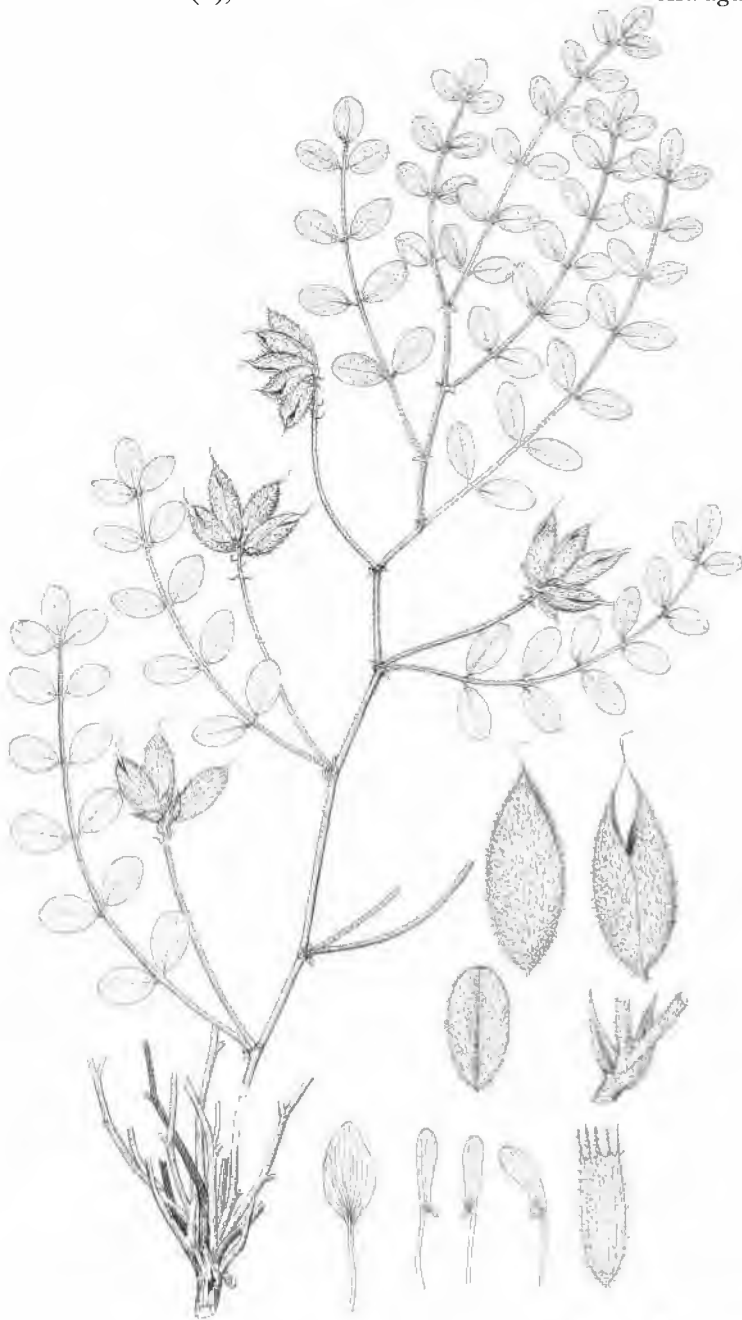


Fig. 1. *Astragalus ciceropsis*. (x 0.49; fruit x 1.2; leaflet x 1.5; stipule x 3; calyx 1.5; standard, wings and keel x 1.8).