

## CLEMATIS KHUZESTANICA (RANUNCULACEAE) A NEW SPECIES FROM SOUTHWEST OF IRAN

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During the working on vegetation of the Khuzestan province, and recently plant collection the author found a small community of *Clematis* L. in Shalo and Mongasht protected area, beside Shivand seasonal river, this species with special characters, introduced as new species, *Clematis khuzestanica* from Iran.

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**Key words:** New species; Ranunculaceae; Dehdez; protected area; Flora of Iran, Khuzestan

گونه جدید *Clematis khuzestanica* (Ranunculaceae) از جنوب غرب ایران

مهري دیناروند: استادیار پژوهشی، بخش تحقیقات جنگل‌ها و مراتع، مرکز تحقیقات و آموزش کشاورزی و منابع طبیعی استان خوزستان، سازمان تحقیقات، آموزش و ترویج کشاورزی، اهواز، ایران.

طی مطالعه پوشش گیاهی استان خوزستان و تکمیل جمع‌آوری گونه‌ها، برای اولین بار جمعیت کوچکی از جنس *Clematis* L. در ارتفاعات منگشت (منطقه حفاظت شده شالو و منگشت)، حاشیه رودخانه فصلی شیوند مشاهده شد. این گونه با ویژگی‌های منحصر به فرد بعنوان گونه جدید *Clematis khuzestanica* از ایران معرفی می‌شود.

### INTRODUCTION

*Clematis* L., containing about 300 species, is one of the largest genera in Ranunculaceae (Ishtiaq ch & al. 2010). It is distinguished from other genera of the family by woody climbing stems (for most *Clematis* species) and opposite leaves (Xie & al. 2005). Linnaeus (1753) first described nine species of *Clematis* in his great work *Species Plantarum*. Rechinger (1992) reported 13 species for Flora Iranica area and 6 species (*C. ispahana* Boiss., *C. songarica* Bunge, *C. viticella* L., *C. orientalis* L., *C. vitabla* L., *C. flammula* L.) for Iran. Habibi & al. (2014) described *C. iranica* as a new species from Mazandran (north of Iran). During field investigations in Khuzestan province (Shalo and Mongasht protected area) a small population of *Clematis*, was discovered

on the Mongasht Mountain (Shavand valley). After carefully studying specimens using main flora of neighboring countries and adjacent areas, it is confirmed that this plant represents a distinctive taxonomic entity and thus is described as a new species. Observations and studies showed that this specimen was apparently different.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

In a program for the collection of plants and working on vegetation of the Khuzestan province, a comprehensive collection of the flora was implemented. The plant materials were identified using Flora of USSR (Krasheninnkov 1970); Flora Iranica (Rechinger 1992); Flora of West Pakistan (Riedel & al. 1991) and Flora of Iraq (Townsend

1980). The type specimen is preserved in TARI and Khuzestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education Center Herbarium.

## RESULTS

*Clematis khuzestanica* Dinarvand **sp. nov.** (figs. 1-3)  
*Typus*: Iran: Khuzestan Province, Dehdez, Shivand, Shaloo and Mongasht protected area, 2500-2900 m, Dinarvand, Ahmadi and Kiani, 11125. Date: 6 August 2019 (holotypus TARI, isotypus Khuzestan Agricultural and Natural Resources Research and Education Center Herbarium).

Suffruticose, climber, up to 3 m high. Branches dichotomous, with parallel ridges, pubescent. Leaves opposite, ternate, bi-pinnate or simple; leaflets elliptic, ovate or lanceolate, mucronate at the apex, rounded at base, entire, with a few teeth, or 1 or 2 lobed at the margin, 3-4.5 cm long and 1.5-4 cm wide, pubescent on both surfaces; petiole 3-6 cm long, often twisted,

pubescent. Flowers nodding, single on ca. 9 cm long pedicels, pale yellow with a pink stain at the base and green above; densely pubescent. Tepals unequal, densely pubescent on both surfaces, lanceolate, acuminate to caudate with a leaf like appendage in the upper half, 12-28 mm long. Stamens numerous, 5-6 mm long; glabrous: anthers linear, brown.

*Habitat*: This species grows beside a seasonal river in the Shivand valley on the Mongasht Mountain, the Mongasht protected area is located in Karon river basin. The area covered with loosed rubbles and unstable gravels.

*Clematis khuzestanica* is morphologically close to *C. orientalis* but it is distinguished from it by following characters: flowers single, tepals 12-28 mm long, pale yellow with a purple stain at base and green at the top. Leaves ternate, bi-pinnate or simple and elliptic leaflet.



Fig. 1. *Clematis khuzestanica* in Shivand, Shaloo and Mongasht protected area (Photo by Dinarvand).



Fig. 2. The herbarium specimen of *Clematis khuzestanica*, single flowers on long pedicels (Photo by Dinarvand).



Fig. 3. Unequal tepals of *Clematis khuzestanica* with a leaf like appendage above (photo by Dinarvand).

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