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A new record for the flora of Turkey: *Silene monerantha* (*Caryophyllaceae*)

Abstract

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Silene monerantha Williams (*Caryophyllaceae*), previously unrecorded for Turkey, has been collected in Siirt, SE Anatolia. A description of the plant, and an illustration with details, are presented.

Key Words: *Silene monerantha*, *Caryophyllaceae*, new record, Siirt, Turkey

Introduction

Some specimens of *Silene* collected during an expedition to Siirt (Botan çayı) province could not be identified by means of the Flora of Turkey (Coode & Cullen 1967; Davis & al. 1988; Tan & Vural 2000). However, they matched *Silene monerantha* Williams as described in Flora Iranica (Melzheimer 1988). *Silene monerantha* had not before been recorded for Turkey, but our identification was confirmed by comparing our material with the type specimen in G-BOIS.

Silene L. is one of the world's largest plant genera, with c. 700 species, almost half of which grow in the Mediterranean region (Melzheimer 1988). The number of *Silene* taxa (species and subspecies) known from Turkey is now 161 (Coode & Cullen 1967; Davis & al. 1988; Tan & Vural 2000; Vural & Dönmez 2001; Duran & Menemen 2003; Aytaç & Duman 2004; Deniz & Düşen 2004; Özgökçe & al. 2005; Genç & al. 2007; Tugay & Ertuğrul 2008; Bağcı 2008). The specimens are deposited at Dicle University Herbarium in Diyarbakır (DUF).

Results and Discussion

Silene monerantha Williams in J. Linn. Soc., Bot. 32: 103. 1896 ≡ *S. monantha* Boiss.

&Hausskn. in Boissier, Fl. Orient., Suppl.: 99. 1888 [non S. Watson 1875]. – Fig. 1. Caespitose perennial. Stems numerous, erect, 12-25 cm tall, pale green, tomentose. Lower leaves petiolate, oblong-spathulate, 12-25 × 2-6 mm; stem leaves in 5-6 pairs, 12-25 × 8-18 mm, broadly ovate-cordate, amplexicaul, mucronate; floral leaves similar but smaller,

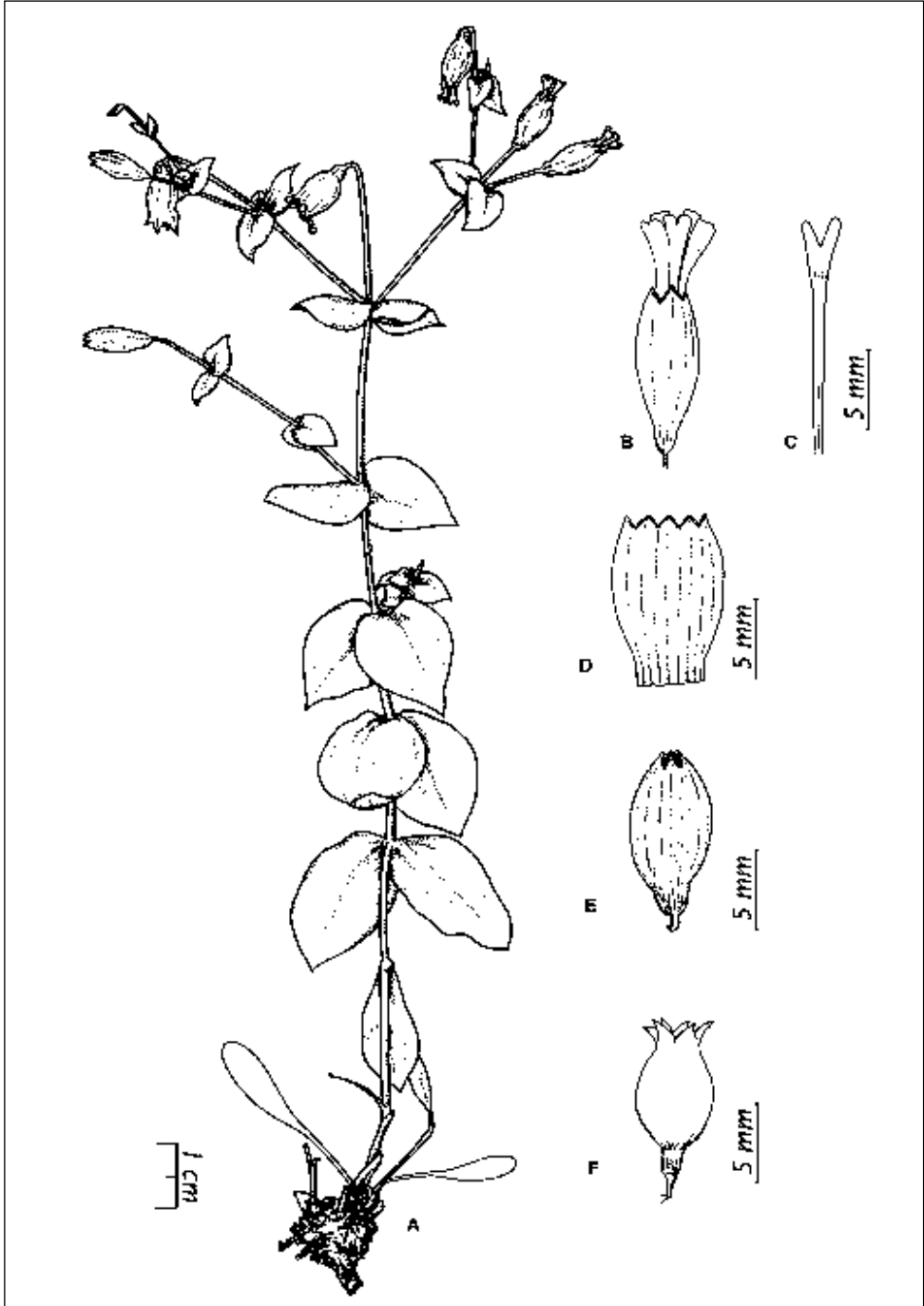


Fig. 1. *Silene monerantha* Williams: A: habit; B: flower; C: corolla; D: opened calyx in flower; E: calyx in fruit; F: capsul.

4-10 × 3-5 mm; all leaves tomentose. Inflorescence a reduced dichasium with (1-)4-7 flowers: lateral pedicels 10-12 mm long in flower, to 30 mm in fruit. Calyx in flower 7-8 mm long, 10-veined, tomentose and papillose, teeth 1 mm long, ovate, with distinctly membranous margins; calyx in fruit inflated, to 11 × 5-6 mm, nodding, straw-coloured. Petals greenish yellow, 13-14 mm long; limb 4-5 mm long, bifid to ½; claw 9-10 mm long; corona lobes 0.5-1 mm long. Anthophore 1.5-2 mm long in fruit, glabrous. Capsule 7-10 × 4-6 mm, included in the constricted calyx. Seeds 1-1.1 mm long, broadly reniform, grey-brown, dorsally shortly spinulose.

Type: Mesopotamia: M. Singarae, *Hausknecht 206* (G-BOIS).

Examined specimen: C9 Siirt: Siirt to Meydandere village, 14 km, 520 m, rocks, 24.6.2007, *Ertekin & Kaya 2007-310* (DUF).

Distribution: Iraq, Turkey (Fig. 2).

Silene sect. *Auriculatae* Boiss. comprises 15 species, 12 of which are endemic in Inner and East Anatolia, Turkey (Coode & Cullen 1967; Davis & al. 1988). *Silene monerantha* differs from the other Turkish members of the section by its smaller calyx and shorter anthophore. The other members of the section in Turkey commonly have a 20-30 mm long calyx and 6-19 mm at long anthophore (only 3-4 mm long, exceptionally, in *S. oligotricha* Hub.-Mor.). The form of its stem leaves also differs from that of the other species, resembling those of *S. commelinifolia* Boiss. var. *comelinifolia* and var. *ovatifolia* Melzh., which however has a 21-34.5 mm long calyx and 10-17 mm long anthophore (Melzheimer 1988). Material of *S. monerantha* from Iraq differs from our Turkish samples especially by having a slightly larger calyx (6.5-) 8-11.5 (-13) mm long at flowering) and smaller capsules (5.5-8.5 × 2.5-4.5 mm). Also, petal claws (5-9 mm long) and anthophore (1.5-3 mm long) are more variable in Iraqi samples.

Together with this new record, *Silene* sect. *Auriculatae* is represented by 16 taxa in Turkey.

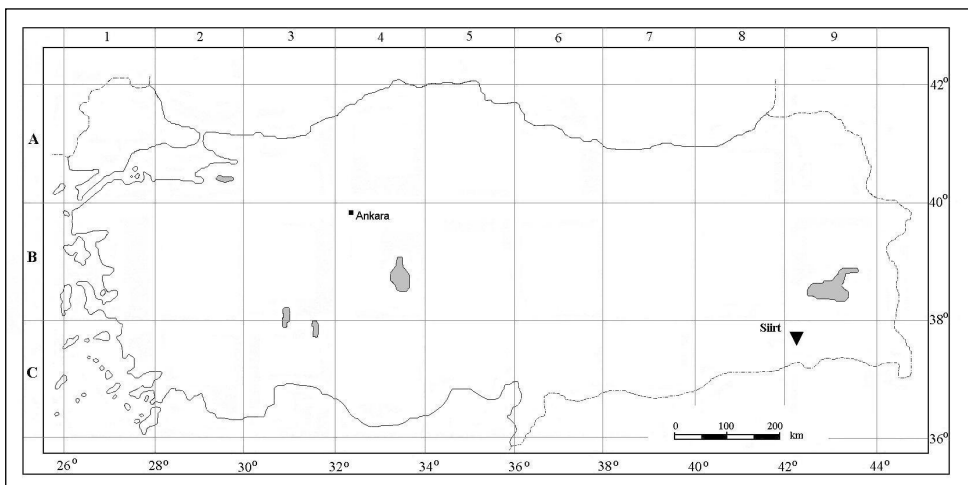


Fig. 2 Distribution of *Silene monerantha* (▼) in Turkey.

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