

RECORD OF PAEONIA MASCULA (PAEONIACEAE) FROM IRAN

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Paeonia mascula subsp. *mascula* has been collected from the oak forests near the village Chenareh, Marivan, Kurdistan. Neither this species nor its synonym *P. kavachensis* has been included in the floras covering Iranian territory.

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گزارش یک گونه جدید از ایران

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گونه *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *mascula* برای اولین بار از ایران گزارش می‌شود. نمونه گونه مذکور از جنگلهای اطراف روستای چناره واقع در شهرستان مریوان از استان کردستان جمع‌آوری گردیده است.

Introduction

In a collecting programme for the completion of the herbarium of Kurdistan province, Sanandaj, several new or interesting plants have been collected. In this paper one of the interesting species, i. e. *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *mascula* is reported from Iran.

Paeonia mascula* (L.) Mill. subsp. *mascula
Kurdistan: Maryvan to Saghez, forest area of Chenareh village, 1450 m, 16.05.2004, H. Maroofi & A. Mohammadi 6660.

Perennial herb to c. 70 cm high. Leaves simply biternate, or with a few leaflets divided, segments 11-17, entire, glabrous or sparingly hairy and light green beneath, narrowly to broadly elliptical to ovate, c. 3-13x0.8-6.5 cm, tapering to acuminate at apex. Flower solitary, terminal. Petals 5-8, deep purpl-red, c. 3.5-5x2.5-3.5 cm. Sepals 5, green, broadly ovate, the outer one larger and sub-foliaceous. Stamens very numerous, with purplish-red filaments and yellow anthers. Follicles 1-2, densely yellowish-tomentose, stigmas sessile and red.

Riedl (1969) in Flora Iranica included 3 species, of which only *P. wittmanniana* Hartw. was mentioned from Iran. He recognized *P. kavachensis* Azn. only from Iraq and Talish. This species was included in synonymy list of *P. mascula* subsp. *mascula* by Davis & Cullen (1965). My specimen matches with this complex, but the problem of synonymy should be solved. Townsend (1980) in Flora of Iraq uses the name *P. mascula* and keeps, the names *P. kavachensis* and *P. kurdistanica* Zoh. in the synonymy list. In

this paper I prefer to use the name *P. mascula* of which recent authors have often used. Both Townsend (l. c.) and Davis & Cullen (l. c.) use the name Iran in their distribution list but mention no specimen from Iran. Therefore, it seems this collection should actually be the first record of the species from Iran, based on a herbarium specimen. The distribution of the species extends from Europe to Syria, Libanon, Turkey, Caucasia, N. Iraq, and W. Iran. The closest locality to the Iranian gathering is from Mousel in Iraq.

Davis & Cullen (l. c.) recognize two subspecies from Turkey a: subsp. *arientina* (Anders) Cullen & Heywood with pilose leaves at beneath and b: subsp. *mascula* with glabrous or sparsely hairy leaves at beneath. The above mentioned specimen bears leaves \pm glabrous beneath, therefore the Iranian record should actually be *P. mascula* subsp. *mascula*.

References

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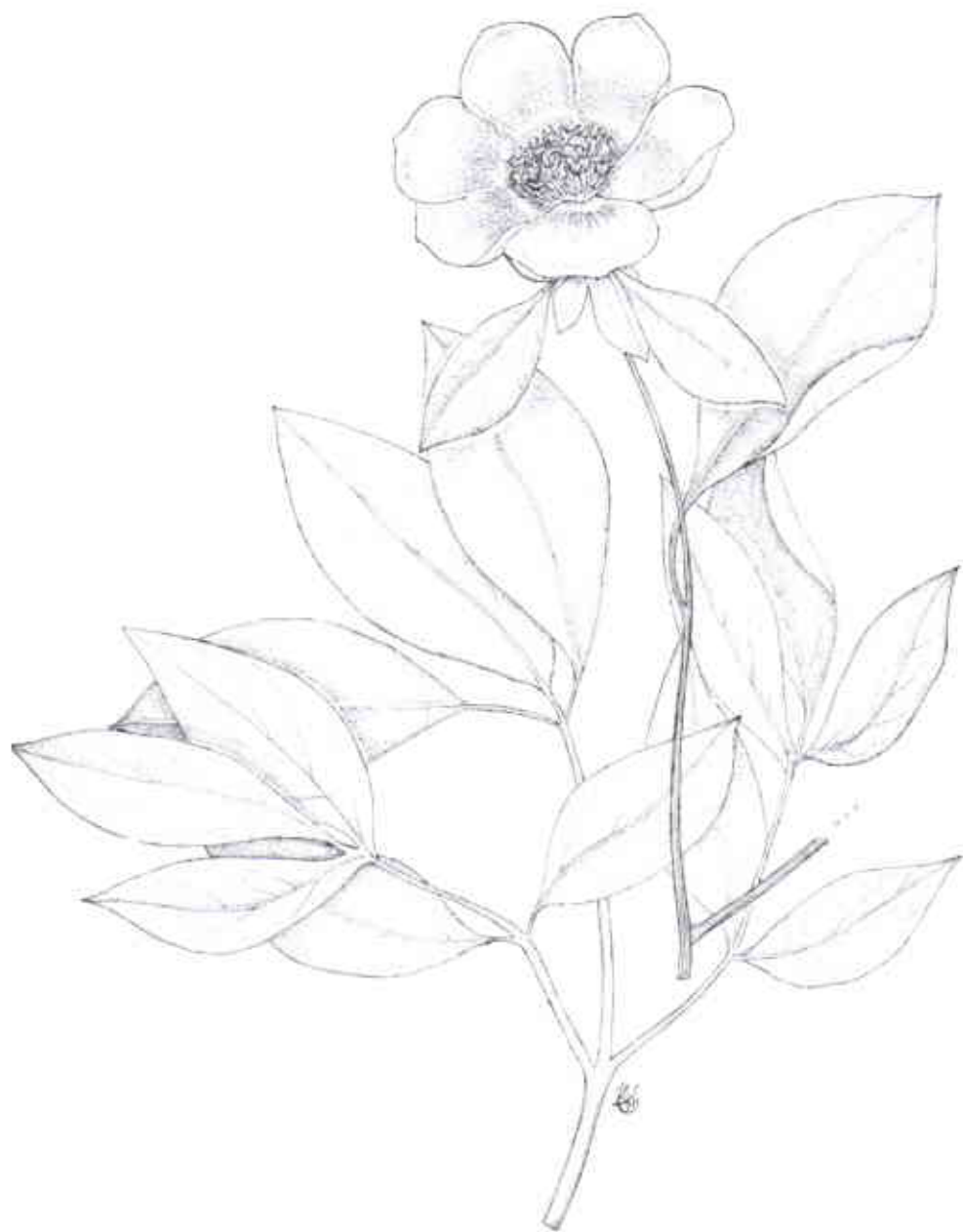


Fig. 1. *Paeonia mascula* subsp. *mascula* (xo. 7)