

AMYGDALUS WENDELBOI (ROSACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM SOUTHERN IRAN

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Amygdalus wendelboi is described as a new species of the sect. *Amygdalus* from the Kuh-e Genou Mts. in S. Iran near Bandar-Abbas. Furthermore the related *A. browiczii* Freitag from SW- and S-Afghanistan is reduced to the synonymy of *A. zabulica* Serafimov.

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گونه جدید (*Amygdalus wendelboi* (Rosaceae) از جنوب ایران

از ، فریتاگ

گونه جدید فوق از بخش *Amygdalus* از کوه گنو در نزدیکی بندرعباس معرفی
میکردد ، همچنین گونه *A. browiczii* Freitag از جنوب غربی و جنوب افغانستان تحت
عنوان هنام بگونه *A. zabulica* Serafimov. تقلیل مییابد.

In the course of field trips in Iran Prof. Per Wendelbo and his collaborators from the Ariamehr Botanical Garden, Tehran 1975 visited the Kuh-e Genou near Bandar-Abbas in southern Iran. At and near the top region of that mountain they collected an *Amygdalus*-species which at closer examination proved to be new.

***Amygdalus wendelboi* Freitag, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)**
Subgenus *Amygdalus*, sect. *Amygdalus*

Description. Arbuscula usque ad 4 m alta, trunculis olivaceo-brunneis nitidis, inermis, brachyblastis ad partem superiorem ramulorum confertis. Ramuli glabri, cortice primo viridi, demum brunneo-cinerei, angulo acuto patentes. Rami cinerascetes, subnitentes. Lamina foliorum elliptica vel obovata, (10)30–40(50) x (5)15–20 mm, apice mucronulata, basi cuneata, utrinque glabra, margine subtiliter crenata et glandulosa. Petioli (6)10–14 mm longi, glabri, glandulis 2. Stipulae caducae, setaceae, glanduloso-laciniate, 6–10 mm longae. Flores 20–26 mm diametro, basi squamis numerosis dense tectis inclusae. Pedicelli tempore florendi 1 mm longi, fructifero usque ad 2 mm longi. Hypanthium late cylindricum, basi conicum, 6.5–8 mm longum, 4–5 mm latum, extra intraque glabrum, violaceo-rubrum. Sepala ovata obtusa 3.5–4 mm longa, margine pilis crispis albidis dense tecta, aliter glabra. Petala albidia vel rosea late obovata, emarginata, 10–13 mm longa, 7–9(10) mm lata. Stamina c. 30, omnia exserta. Drupae ellipsoideae, 15–19 x 11–13 mm, leviter complanatae, velutinae. Putamina parva, ellipsoidea, 15 x 11 x 8.5 mm (in statu immaturo), vix complanata, apice basique rotundata, inaequaliter carinata, sulcato-foveolata, sulcis profundis in parte inferiore longitudinaliter ordinatis aliter irregulariter ordinatis.

Small, unarmed tree up to 4 m or slightly higher, with distinct stems covered by olive-brown shining bark, with the short shoots congested at the apical parts of the branches. Twigs greyish, somewhat shining. Long shoots glabrous, at first green, later becoming brownish to greyish, diverging at acute angle. Leaf blades elliptic to obovate, (10)30–40(50)–(5)15–20 mm with pointed apex and cuneate base, glabrous on

both sides, at the margins finely crenate and glandular. Petioles (6)10–14 mm long, glabrous, with 2 glands. Stipules caducous, setaceous, glandular-laciniate, 6–10 mm long. Flowers 20–26 mm in diameter, at the base covered by numerous densely packed bud-scales. Pedicels at flowering time 1 mm long, later on somewhat elongated up to 2 mm. Hypanthium broadly cylindrical, with conical base, 6.5–8 mm long, 4–5 mm wide, glabrous on both surfaces, purplish. Sepals ovate, obtuse, 3.5–4 mm long, at the margins densely pilose by curled white hairs, otherwise glabrous. Petals white or pink, broadly ovate, emarginate, 10–13 mm long, 7–9(10) mm wide. Stamens about 30, all of them exserted. Drupe ellipsoidal, 15–19 x 11–13 mm, slightly flattened, velvety. Kernels comparatively small, ellipsoidal, 15 x 11 x 8.5–9 mm (in immature stage), hardly flattened, rounded at the base and at the apex, unequally keeled, deeply grooved and pitted, with the grooves in the lower 1/3–1/2 more or less longitudinally otherwise irregularly arranged.

Diagnose. Species nova ab aliis speciebus sectionis *Amygdalus* praeter *A. stocksiana* Boiss. foliis ellipticis vel obovatis et putaminibus profunde sulcato-foveolatis differt; praeterea ab *A. communis* L. drupis putaminibusque parvis et ab *A. zabalica* Serafimow foliis majoribus, putaminibus vix complanatis et hypanthiis cylindricis majoribus diversa est.

Localities, type. Iran, Bandar-Abbas prov.: Top region of the Kuh-e Genou Mts., S. slope in limestone rocks, 2250 m, 4.5 1975 Foroughi (holotype TARI 16102, isotype GOET), fruiting specimen; ibid. 2300 m, 3.4 1975 Wendelbo et Foroughi (TARI 15374, GOET), in flowering stage.

Ecology. The species is common throughout the top region of the Kuh-e Genou Mts. It grows in open woodlands dominated by *Juniperus excelsa* together with *Olea aucheri*, *Pistacia*, *Acer monspessulanum* and *Amygdalus scoparius*. Certainly it has a wider distribution in the woodland belt of the mountains in southern Iran.

The new species, named in honour of its discov-



Fig. 1. *Amygdalus wendelboi* (holotype).

erer Prof. Per Wendelbo, belongs to the group around *A. communis* and is related to *A. communis* L. and *A. zabolica* Serafimow (= *A. browiczii* Freitag). However, from both species beside other characters it differs significantly by the elliptic to obovate leaves, the hardly flattened fruits and stones, and the deeply grooved stone surface. In the *Amygdalus communis*-group stones of that type are known only from *A. kuramica* Korsh. of E. Afghanistan, but in that species the leaves are again lanceolate and distinctly serrate, and furthermore the hypanthium is densely pilose inside. Probably the closest relative is *A. stocksiana*, described from the Harboi ("Harbab") Mts. in Baluchistan by Boissier (1856) and included provisionally into *A. communis* L. by Browicz (1969). It shares the same shape and margin of the leaf blade with *A. wendelboi*, but differs by wider leaves, the petiole equalling the blade in length and having only 20–25 stamens. However, the true position of *A. stocksiana* remains obscure, as the species is still imperfectly known with the fruits lacking. Probably it is a distinct taxon.

Distributionally *A. wendelboi* fits well into

the gap between the more westerly area of *A. communis*, which according to Browicz (1969, 1973) reaches up to Shiraz and Kerman, *A. zabolica* of the southern flanks of the highlands of Afghanistan (Freitag 1972) and *A. stocksiana* in Baluchistan. However, the distributional limits are still widely unknown, but they may be similar to those of *Olea aucheri* and other interesting woody plants of S. and SE. Iran.

References

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