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### A new species of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis* from Greece

#### Abstract

Phitos, D. & Constantinidis, T.: A new species of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis* from Greece. — Fl. Medit. 3: 273-275. 1993. — ISSN 1120-4052.

*Centaurea cithaeronea*, a yellow-flowered species from Mt. Kitheron on the Attiki-Viotia border in Central Greece is described; its somatic chromosome number is  $2n = 54$ .

The discovery of a new species of the genus *Centaurea* in Greece is not surprising since a large number of local endemics is already known within this genus (see e. g. Wagenitz 1971, Phitos & Damboldt 1976). However, finding yellow-flowered species of *C.* sect. *Phalolepis* is a rare event indeed. Within this section, which is rich in endemics in Greece, only three yellow- or yellow-whitish-flowered species were known until now, namely *Centaurea musarum* Boiss. & Orph. from Mt. Parnassos, *C. litochorea* Georgiadis & Phitos from Mt. Olimbos and *C. chrysocephala* Phitos & Georgiadis from Meteora.

Another species of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis*, *C. pseudocadmea* Wagenitz, was reported to occur on Mt. Kitheron; however, its most recent find dates back to 1930 (Wagenitz 1971). While searching in vain for this species the second author discovered the new species, which we describe here.

*Centaurea cithaeronea* Phitos & Constantinidis, **sp. nova** — Typus: [Greece] "Nomos Attikis/Viotias, Mt. Kitheron, W of an abandoned military camp, open, rocky, grazed ground, limestone, alt. 1290 m", 12.7.1992, *Constantinidis* 2690 (holotypus: UPA; isotypus: B). — Fig. 1.

Perennis. Rhizoma lignosum, florendi tempore saepe rosulas steriles emittens. Caules floccoso-tomentosi, ascendentes vel erecti, 10-20 cm alti, simplices vel in parte media ramis 1-3 provisi. Folia omnia dense appresse albo-tomentosa; basalia petiolata, c. 4-7 cm longa, lyrato-pinnatifida, segmentis lateralibus utrinque 3-4, segmento terminali elliptico; folia caulina inferiora petiolata, basalibus similia sed minora; media sessilia, lyrato-pinnatifida, segmentis lineari-lanceolatis utrinque 1-2; superiora sessilia, plerumque integra, lanceolata. Capitula solitaria; involucrium ovatum, 10-14 mm longum, 6-10 mm latum; unguis phyllorum in parte superiore sparse araneosi vel glabri, indistincte striati, appendicibus omnino obtecti; pars centralis appendicum triangularis vel ovoidea, brunnea, inferiorum in spinam terminalem capillaceam, brevissimam excurrens, superiorum plerumque absque spina; partes laterales decurrentes, hyalinae, albae, margine minute

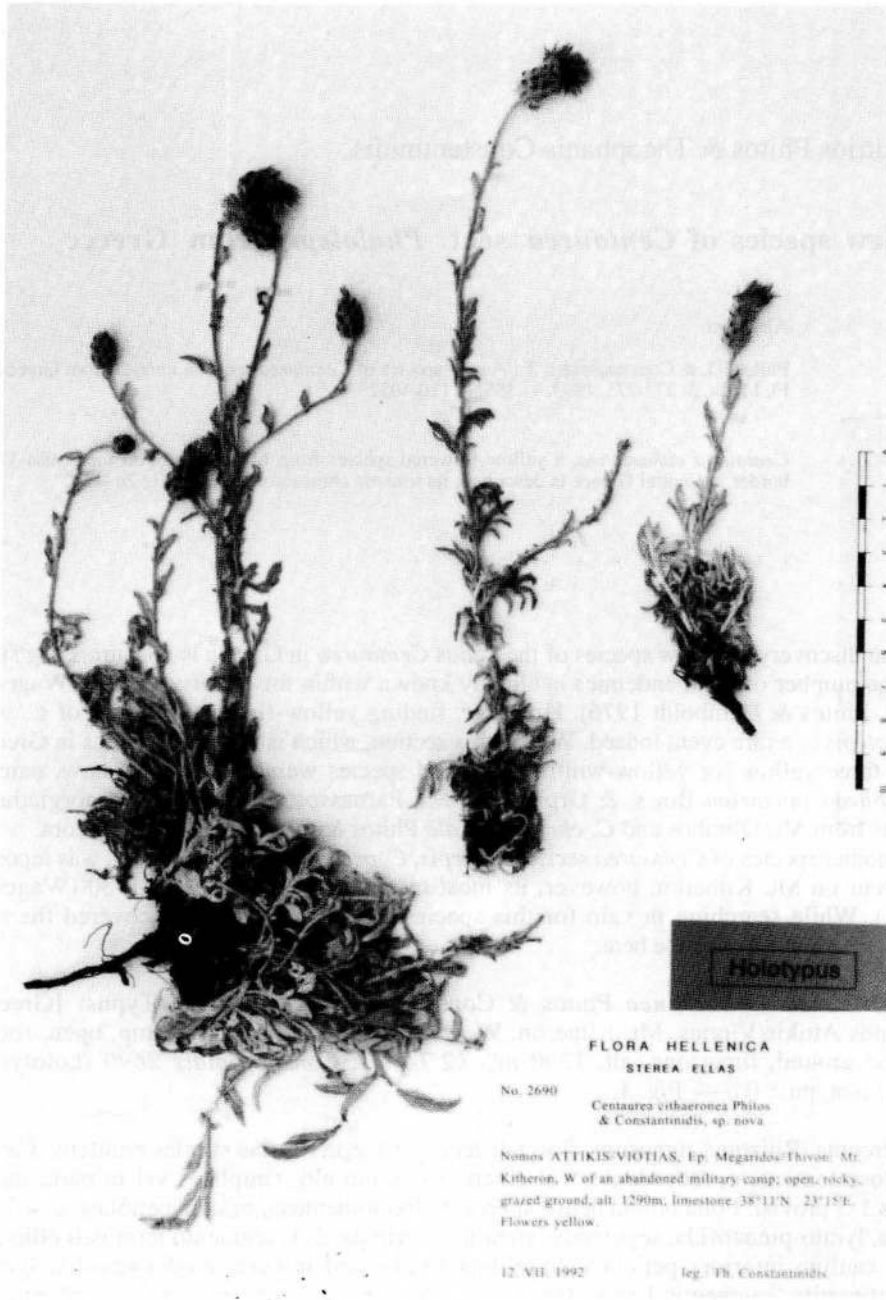


Fig. 1. *Centaurea cithaeronea* (Holotypus).

denticulatae. Flores citrini, marginales parum radiantes. Achenia glabra vel sparse arachnoidea, 5-5.5 mm longa; pappus duplex, 2.5-3.5 mm longus. Numerus chromosomatum:  $2n = 54$ .

A *Centaurea pseudocadmea* Wagenitz imprimis floribus citrinis et partibus lateralibus appendicum valde latioribus manifeste differt.

The chromosome number ( $2n = 54$ ) of this new species is most interesting. It is consistent with the basic chromosome number of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis*,  $x = 9$ , but it is the first record of hexaploidy to occur within this group, at least in the Greek area.

#### References

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