

# Taxonomic Revision of *Allium* L. sect. *Minuta* F.O. KHASS.

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**Abstract:** A new species of *Allium* from original Middle Asiatic sect. *Minuta* F.O. KHASS. was found on the western Pamiralaj (Aktau range) on the border to desert Turanian floristic province.

**Zusammenfassung:** Eine neue zentralasiatische Art der Gattung *Allium* sect. *Minuta* F.O. KHASS. wurde im westlichen Pamiralaj (Aktau Gebirge) an der Grenze zur trockenen irano-turanischen Florenzprovinz gefunden und neu beschrieben.

**Key words:** Taxonomy, *Allium*, Middle Asia.

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## INTRODUCTION

There are about 500 species in subgenus *Allium* in the Old World (KHASSANOV 2000) including the small section *Minuta* F.O. KHASS. with 4 tiny species distributed in Middle Asia only (Fig. 1). This section occupies a separate position and is characterized by a small compressed perianth and a persistent spathe. All species are flowering in early spring.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

During the last collecting mission in May 2015 a new species (Fig. 2) was found on the northern slopes of mountain Ljangan (near the top) on Aktau range (Western Pamiroalaj). Morphologically this species is close to *A. orunbai* (Fig. 3), but clearly differs by the presence of bulblets and not reflected violet tepals. Ecologically *A. aktauense* is well separated from *A. orunbai*, which grows on the foothills, as well as from *A. minutum* (Fig. 4) and *A. parvulum* (Fig. 5) both of which occupy gypseous-saline soils and dry loamy slopes. Geographically, it is closely related to *A. anistepalum* VVED. (Fig. 6) from the southern mountains of Ferghan depression, Alaj and Turkestan ranges.

## *Allium aktauense* F.O. KHASS. & ESANKULOV sp. nov (subgen. *Allium* section *Minuta* F.O. KHASS.).

**Holotype:** Uzbekistan, Western Pamiroalaj, Aktau range, pass Ljangan, northern slopes, N 40°20'37,08" E 66°00'34,69", 01 May 2015, KHASSANOV & ESANKULOV (TASH).

Ab *Allio anisotepalo* tepalis subaequilongis et violaceis, ab *A. minuto* et *A. parvulo* floribus roseis, ab *A. orunbai* tepalis exterioris ellipticis nec attenuatis differt.

Bulbs ovate, 5-6 mm long and wide. The nearly coriaceous, blackish-brown outer tunics disintegrate lengthwise into fibres or somewhat net-like. Bulblets several in the ground part of the scape. Scape cylindrical, 5-10 cm long. Leaves 2, thread-like 0.5-1 mm thick, shorter than scape. Spathe scarious, shorter than pedicels, shortly beaked, persistent. Inflorescence capitate, few-flowered (5-10). Pedicels somewhat differing in length, 5-10 mm long, without basal bracts. Flower campanulate, tepals 3,5 mm long, of almost equal length, ellipsoid, obtuse, base umbilicate, violet with dark midvein, the tip not recurved. Filaments triangular, half as long as tepals, the basal quarters united with themselves and fused with the tepals. Inner filaments basally twice as wide than the outer ones. Anthers violet. Style not exerted.



Fig. 1: Distribution of species from sect. *Minuta* (orange - *Allium aktauense*, blue - *A. orunbai*, green - *A. parvulum*, red - *A. minutum*, black - *A. anisotepalum*).

**Key for determination of *Allium* sect. *Minuta***

- 1 Tepals rorsish, outer ones clearly longer ..... *A. anisotepalum* VVED.
- 1\* Tepals whitish, rosish or violet, outer equal to inner ones ..... 2
- 2 Tepals whitish ..... 3
- 2\* Tepals rosish or violet ..... 4
- 3 Tepals obtuse ..... *A. minutum* VVED.
- 3\* Tepals attenuate ..... *A. parvulum* VVED.
- 4 Bulblets several, tepals not reflected ..... *A. aktauense* sp. nov.
- 4\* Bulblets absent, tepals reflected ..... *A. orunbai* F.O. KHASS. & R.M. FTITSCH

**REFERENCES**

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**Fig. 2:** Flowering *A. aktauense* sp. nov.



**Fig. 3:** Flowering *A. orunbai* F.O. KHASS. & R.M. FTITSCH



Fig. 4: Isotype of *A. minutum* Vved.

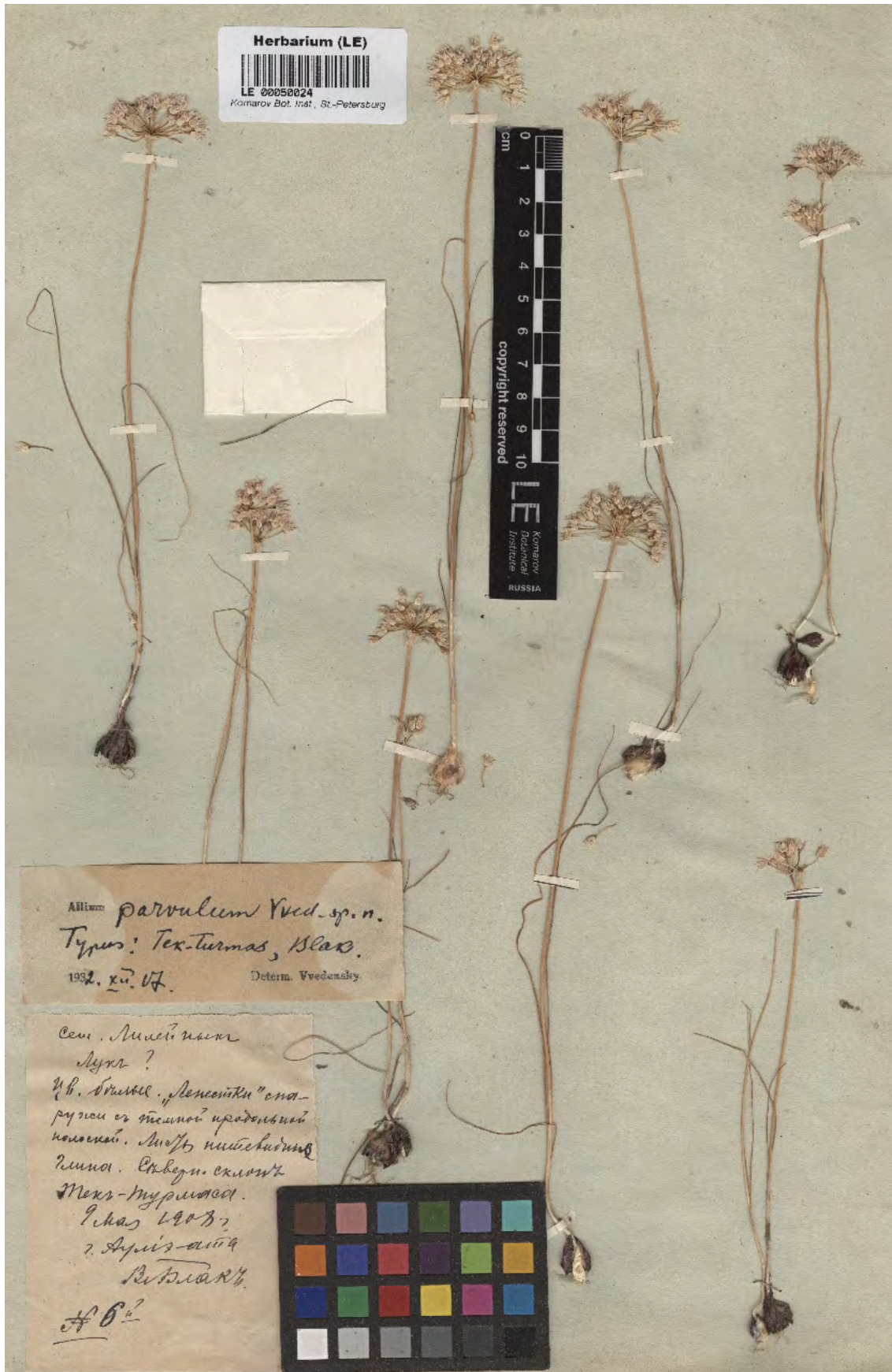


Fig. 5: Holotype of *A. parvulum* VVED.



Fig. 6: Type of *A. anisotepalum* VVED.

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