

Astragalus sect. Alopecuroidei (Fabaceae) in Iran, complementary notes with a key to the species

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***Astragalus* sect. *Alopecuroidei* (Fabaceae) in Iran, complementary notes with a key to the species**

Abstract

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New findings and a key to the 24 species of *Astragalus* sect. *Alopecuroidei* in Iran are provided. Two species, *A. neo-maassoumianus* and *A. foliosus* are described as new to science. *A. alopecurus* is a new record for the flora of Iran. *A. phlomoides* is transferred from *A. sect. Laxiflori* to sect. *Alopecuroidei*. *A. ajubensis* is reduced to a synonym of *A. macrocephalus* subsp. *finitimus* and *A. ovalifoliolatus* to a synonym of *A. kirrindicus*.

Introduction

Astragalus sect. *Alopecuroidei* DC. forms a large central group within subgenus *Astragalus* together with several other closely related sections such as *A. sect. Astragalus* L., sect. *Chronopus* Bunge, sect. *Caprini* DC., sect. *Eremophysa* Bunge and sect. *Laxiflori* Agerer-Kirchhoff (Agerer-Kirchhoff 1987, Agerer-Kirchhoff & Agerer 1977, Becht 1978). The species of this central group are usually yellow flowered, have a more or less inflated fruiting calyx and bilocular fruits.

Astragalus sect. *Alopecuroidei* was taxonomically revised by Becht (1978) and treated for the “Flora iranica” by Podlech (1999). Studies focussing on *A. sect. Alopecuroidei* in Iran have been carried out by A.-A. Maassoumi and M. Ranjbar since 1991. Several new species were described (Maassoumi & Ranjbar 1994) but could not be incorporated in the “Flora iranica” treatment of the section (Podlech 1999). Also other findings have since been gained by the present authors. Hence, the purpose of this joint contribution is to complement the previous treatments of the section for Iran according to our current knowledge.

Astragalus sect. *Alopecuroidei* DC., Prodr. 2: 294. 1825
= *Alopecias* Steven in Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou 29: 143. 1856 ≡ *Astragalus* sect. *Alopecias* Bunge in Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Pétersbourg, ser. 7, 11(16): 58. 1868. – Typus: *Astragalus alopecuroides* L.

Perennial, caulescent herbs with erect, basifixed, white hairs. *Leaves* imparipinnate, stipules free, or shortly adnate to the petiole but free from each other. *Flowers* mostly large, yellow to brownish or greenish, subsessile, in sessile or pedunculate, globose or cylindrical, very dense axillary inflorescences. *Bracteoles* present or absent. *Calyx* campanulate or more rarely shortly cylindrical, somewhat inflated in fruit. *Standard* with the lamina straight or recurved, glabrous or rarely sericeous; *wings* and *keel* with claws adnate to the base of the staminal tube only; lamina of the keel often large (except *A. subsect. Microtropi*). *Pod* sessile, firm or sometimes membranous or corky, completely bilocular.

Key to the species of *Astragalus* sect. *Alopecuroidei*

1. Calyx ebracteolate 2
 - Calyx bibracteolate [A. *hirrindicus* group] 20
2. Inflorescence sessile 3
 - Inflorescence stipitate, peduncle 1-7 cm long [A. *macrocephalus* group] 11
3. Limb of keel 10-12 mm long, 3-6 mm broad [A. *megalotropis* group] 4
 - Limb of keel 6-8 mm long, 2.5-3.5 mm broad [A. *alopecurus* group] 5
4. Plant covered with villose hairs; flowers often brownish, calyx teeth 9-15 mm
 - *A. megalotropis* C. A. Mey. ex Bunge
 - Plant densely covered with pubescent hairs; flowers yellow, calyx teeth 7-9 mm
 - *A. hamadanus* Boiss.
5. Inflorescence cylindrical, 6-10 cm long 6
 - Inflorescence spherical, 3.5-4 cm long 7
6. Standard c. 23 mm long, limb obovate; surface of leaflets glabrous . . . *A. alopecurus* Pall.
 - Standard c. 19-20 mm long, limb ovate to elliptic; leaflets hairy on both sides
 - *A. alopecias* Pall.
7. Stem, peduncle and rachis glabrous 8
 - Stem, peduncle and rachis tomentose 9
8. Leaflets up to 30 mm long; stipules 15-20(25) mm long; calyx teeth narrowly triangular, 1-2 mm long *A. ponticus* Pall.
 - Leaflets up to 15 mm long; stipules 4-6 mm long; calyx teeth subulate, 2-4 mm long
 - *A. hymenocalyx* Boiss.
9. Leaflets in 10-13 pairs, broadly ovate-elliptic, emarginate at apex
 - *A. speciosus* Boiss. & Hohen.
 - Leaflets in 20-30 pairs, oblong to narrowly elliptic 10
10. Standard pandurate, contracted in middle section; calyx teeth 2-3 mm
 - *A. foliosus* Podlech, Maassoumi & Ranjbar
 - Standard elliptic-orbicular; calyx teeth 1-2 mm long *A. saetiger* Becht
11. Standard sericeous *A. turbinatus* Bunge
 - Standard glabrous 12
12. Standard elliptic, 23-27 mm long 13
 - Standard orbicular to rectangular, shorter than 23 mm 14
13. Stem, peduncle and rachis glabrous; leaflets orbicular-obovate . . . *A. phlomoides* Boiss.
 - Stem, peduncle and rachis densely covered with spreading hairs; leaflets ovate-elliptic . .
 - *A. neo-maassoumianus* Ranjbar
14. Stem, leaflets, rachis and peduncle appressed-hairy 15
 - Stem, leaflets, rachis and peduncle glabrous 16
15. Stem, peduncle and stipule densely covered with appressed hairs; leaflets lanceolate, in up to 11 pairs; corolla yellow *A. maabudii* Ranjbar
 - Stem, peduncle and stipule laxly covered with appressed hairs; leaflets ovate, in 11-14 pairs; corolla yellow *A. zarjabadensis* Ranjbar
16. Peduncle shorter than capitate inflorescence in diam. 17

- Peduncle equal with capitulate inflorescence in diam. or longer 18
- 17. Stipules longer than 25 mm; corolla shorter than 20 mm, standard rectangular
 *A. arasbaranensis* Maassoumi & Ranjbar
- Stipules shorter than 15 mm; corolla 20 mm long, standard orbicular . . . *A. jessenii* Bunge
- 18. Leaflets in more than 11 pairs *A. macrocephalus* Willd.
- Leaflets in less than 11 pairs 19
- 19. Leaflets broadly ovate, obtuse *A. schahrudensis* Bunge
- Leaflets lanceolate, acute *A. latianicus* Maassoumi & Ranjbar
- 20. Stem, peduncle and rachis densely covered with appressed hairs; leaflets elliptic.
 *A. echinops* Aucher ex Boiss.
- Stem, peduncle and rachis covered with straight hairs 21
- 21. Inflorescence more than 4 cm in diam.; corolla longer than 20 mm 22
- Inflorescence less than 4 cm in diam.; corolla shorter than 20 mm 24
- 22. Leaflets in 12-16 pairs *A. meridionalis* Bunge
- Leaflets in 7-9 pairs 23
- 23. Leaflets orbicular or obcordate, emarginate at apex *A. obtusifolius* DC.
- Leaflets ovate, obtuse at apex *A. kirrindicus* Boiss. & Noë
- 24. Leaflets hairy on both sides, pyriform; calyx teeth shorter than tube; flowers reddish
 *A. sarzehensis* Ranjbar
- Leaflets glabrous above or with some scattered hairs only, orbicular to obcordate; calyx
 teeth equal or longer than tube; flowers yellow *A. stepporum* Podlech

New species

Astragalus neo-maassoumianus Ranjbar, **sp. nova**

Holotype: Iran, Khorasan, Bojnoord, Garyolan, Agerghayeh to Khesht, Teloo mountain, 1200 m, 28.6.1994, *Musavi & Lotfai* 3495 (TARI).

Differt ab *A. turbinato* Bunge, *A. christophii* Trautv. et *A. grisebachiano* Aitch. & Baker vexillo glabro (nec sericeo), foliolis 7-10- (nec 16-25-)jugis, caulibus dense patenter (nec appresse) pilosis.

Plantae perennes, 40-50 cm altae. *Caulis* erectus, densissime pilis brevissimis obtectus. *Stipulae* 10-13 mm longae, herbaceae, lanceolato-lineares, acuminatae, petiolo per 1-2 mm adnatae. *Folia* 10-15 cm longa, petiolo brevissimo, sicut rachis brevissime piloso. *Foliola* 7-10-juga, 16-24 mm longa et 11-17 mm lata, ovata ad elliptica, obtusa, saepe mucronulata, supra glabra vel sparse et imprimis marginem versus pilosa, subtus dense appresse pilosa. *Inflorescentiae* in axillis foliorum superiorum dipositae, rotundato-capitatae, 5-6 cm diametro, pedunculis 6-7 cm longis pilosis suffultae. *Bracteae* filiformes, 11-13 mm longae, pilosae. *Bracteolae* nullae. *Calyx* 22-25 mm longus, tubulosi-campanulatus, pilis villosis densis 2-3.5 mm longis obtectus, dentibus tubum subaequantibus vel subbrevioribus. *Corolla* glabra, flava-viridula; *vexillum* 23-27 mm longum, lamina elliptica, apice integra, rotundata; *alae* 24-26 mm longae, lamina oblonga, antice rotundata, basi auriculata, 1-1.5 mm longa; *carina* c. 25 mm longa; lamina triangularis. *Ovarium* sessile, dense villosum, stylo usque medio hirtio. *Legumen* ignotum.

Astragalus foliosus Podlech, A.-A. Maassoumi & Ranjbar, **sp. nova**

Holotype: Iran, Azarbayejan, Khalkhal, 18 km on the road, from Khalkhal to Kivi (protected area of Lomber), 1800-2350 m, 21.6.1986, *Maassoumi & Abouhamzeh* 56921 (TARI; isotype MSB).

Differt ab *A. pandurato* Bunge foliolis 9-20 × 4-7 (nec 22-40 × 7-15) mm, pedunculis 0-0.5 (nec 2-4.5) cm longis, stipulis 10-13 (nec 16-25) mm, bracteis 7-10 (nec 6-7) mm.

Plantae perennes, 40-60 cm altae. *Caulis* erectus, subdensissime pilis brevissimis obtectus. *Stipulae* 10-13 mm longae et 3-4 mm latae, herbaceae, lanceolate-acuminatae, petiolo per 1-2 mm adnatae. *Folia* 15-25 cm longa, petiolo brevissimo 1-3 cm longo, sicut rachis brevissime piloso. *Foliola* 17-22-juga, 9-20 mm longa et 4-7 mm lata, oblongo-ovata vel oblonga, obtuso-rotundata vel emarginata, supra glabra vel sparse et imprimis marginem versus pilosa, subtus dense appresse pilosa. *Inflorescentiae* in axillis foliorum superiorum dispositae, rotundato-capitatae, 3-4 cm diametro, pedunculis 0-0.5 cm longis pilosis. *Bracteae* lineari-lanceolatae, 7-10 mm longae, sparse et imprimis marginem versus pilosae. *Bracteolae* nullae. *Calyx* 14-15 mm longus, tubuloso-campanulatus, pilis villosis densis 2-3 mm longis obtectus, dentibus triangulari-lanceolatis 2-3 mm longis. *Corolla* glabra, flava; *vexillum* 17-22 mm longum, lamina pandurata, apice integra, rotundata; *alae* 24-26 mm longae, lamina oblonga, apice rotundata, basi auriculata, 1-1.5 mm longa; *carina* 13-15 mm longa, lamina triangulari. *Ovarium* sessile, dense villosum, stylo usque 1/3 hirtio. *Legumen* ignotum.

Revised position of *Astragalus phlomoides* Boiss.

Astragalus phlomoides Boiss. is an interesting species restricted to central Iran. For its inflorescence features it was placed in *A. sect. Laxiflori* by Agerer-Kirchhoff & Agerer (1997), with *A. baijiensis* C. Towns. as a synonym. Both species are actually clearly distinct (Table 1) and allopatric, as was already assumed by Maassoumi (1998). The placement of *A. phlomoides* in *A. sect. Laxiflori* is, moreover, doubtful; because of the dense inflorescence and the (secondarily) reticulate seed testa the species is in our opinion much better placed in the *A. macrocephalus* group of *A. sect. Alopecuroidei*. Besides, we have the impression that *A. sect. Laxiflora* is a very artificial taxon and morphologically not actually separable from *A. sect. Alopecuroidei*.

Table 1. Differential characters of *Astragalus phlomoides* and *A. baijiensis*.

<i>A. phlomoides</i>	<i>A. baijiensis</i>
inflorescence ovate to spherical, c. 5 cm	inflorescence cylindrical, c. 10 cm
leaflets in 14-17 pairs	leaflets in 20-32 pairs
standard 25-35 mm long	standard 23-25 mm long
wings and keel 28-30 mm long	wings and keel 22-24 mm long

New record for the flora of Iran

Astragalus alopecurus Pall., Sp. Astrag.: 11. 1800.

= *A. maximus* Willd., Sp. Pl. 3: 1258. 1802.

Specimen seen

IRAN: AZARBAYEJAN: Arasbaran protected area, Doghroon Mts, 2200-2400 m, 24.8.1976, Runemark & Assadi 21939 (TARI); ibid., 2500-2800 m, 13.7.1977, Assadi & Sardabi 24013 (TARI, det. Assadi).

Note. – This species was reported by Becht (1978) from the western Alps, Bulgaria, Turkey and Armenia eastwards to China. Because of its flowers and chartaceous stipules it is rather similar to *A. ponticus* Pall. but differs by the long, cylindrical inflorescences and the more or less dense indumentum.

New synonyms

Astragalus macrocephalus Willd., Sp. Pl. 3: 1260. 1802.

= *A. cucullaris* Boiss., Diagn. Pl. Orient., ser. 1, 6: 39. 1846 ≡ *A. macrocephalus* subsp. *cucullaris* (Boiss.) Chamberlain in Davis, Fl. Turkey 3: 189. 1970

= *A. megalacmus* Freyn & Sint. in Oesterr. Bot. Z. 43: 419. 1893.

1. Stipules often subcordate, longer than 35 mm subsp. *macrocephalus*
 – Stipules narrowly triangular, shorter than 25 mm subsp. *finitimus*

subsp. *macrocephalus*

Specimens seen

IRAN: Between Jolfa and Ahar, near Jushin, 1250 m, 20.6.1988, *Assadi & Shahsavari 65844* (TARI); Uroumīyeh, Gardaneh-e Ghooshchi, 2000 m, 16.7.1991, *Mozaffarian 70085* (TARI); Uroumīyeh, Maku-Kandi, 10.6.1981, *Tarighi, Ghafari & Amin 1355* (TARI); Salmas, Ghooshchi pass, 1800 m, 5.7.1976, *Amini 6983* (TARI); km 30 W of Uroumīyeh, Silvana, 1650 m, 26.6.1988, *Akbarzadeh 73* (TARI); Uroumīyeh, Ghooyandaghi, 1350 m, 3.6.1974, *Wendelbo, Assadi & Shirdelpur* (TARI).

subsp. *finitimus* (Bunge) Chamberlain in Davis, Fl. Turkey 3: 190. 1970 ≡ *A. finitimus* Bunge in Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Pétersbourg, ser. 7, 11(16): 61. 1868 in clave [& 15(1): 102. 1869].

= *A. schuschnanensis* Freyn in Bull. Herb. Boissier 6: 983. 1898.

= *A. oloricus* Manden. in Bot. Mater. Gerb. Bot. Inst. Komarova Akad. Nauk URSS 10: 98. 1947.

= *A. ashuricus* Parsa, Fl. Iran 9: 110. 1966.

= *A. arbelicus* Bornm. in Beih. Bot. Centralbl., B, 57: 281. 1937.

= *A. ajubensis* Bunge in Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Pétersbourg 11(16): 61. 1868 in clave [& 15(1): 102. 1869, **syn. nov.**

Specimens seen

IRAN: BAKHTIARI: Sharekord, E of kuh-e Jhanbain, 2100-2400 m, 9.7.1986, *Mozaffarian 57630* (TARI). — ESFAHAN: Natanz to Kashan, 1750 m, 7.6.1986, *Assadi & Bazgosha 56593* (TARI). — FARS: Shiraz, parke Bamu, 1750-2000 m, 14.6.1992, *Mozaffarian 71490* (TARI); Shiraz: 158 km N of Shiraz (Didegan) 16.6.1972, *Karimi 15162* (TARI). — HAMADAN: Yalfan village, 2030 m, 29.5.1972, *Riazi 6244* (TARI); Kabutar-Ahang, Ghohorud, Sarayjogh, kuh-e Siah, 2000-2240 m, 8.6.1988, *Mozaffarian 64642* (TARI); Hamadan to Ghahavand, Biuk-abad to Shahbodagh Mts., W of Aghdagh, 2350 m, 2.6.1988, *Mozaffarian 64463* (TARI); Taghiabad, 2070 m, 9.6.1959, *Pabot 28734* (TARI); 20 km on the road to Malayer, Ecbatan-Sad, S of Yalfan village, 16.5.1983, *Maassoumi 52095* (TARI). — KERMAN: Bardsir, near Lalezar village, 2950 m, 2.6.1982, *Sabahy & Heravi 738* (TARI). — TEHRAN: Between Arak and Khomain, 2600 m, 15.6.1984, *Mozaffarian & Maassoumi 48062* (TARI); Arak, 15 km S of Arak, Shamsabad, 30.5.1986, *Akhani 628* (TARI).

Note. – *Astragalus macrocephalus* is one of the most widespread species of the *A. macrocephalus* group. Its subspecies are not well separated geographically. Strong similarities in shape and size of calyx and petals, in habit and in the glabrescence of the leaves indicate a close relationship between the taxa. *A. ajubensis* Bunge perfectly matches *A. macrocephalus* subsp. *finitimus* (Bunge) Chamberlain, and cannot be maintained as a separate species.

Astragalus kirrindicus Boiss. & Noë, Diagn. Pl. Orient., ser. 2, 2: 32. 1856.

= *A. rudehendicus* Sirj., Rech. f. & Aellen in Anz. Math.-Nat. Kl. Oesterr. Akad. Wiss. 91: 169. 1954.

= *A. ovalifoliolatus* Maassoumi & Ranjbar in Iran. J. Bot. 7: 42. 1996, **syn. nov.**

Specimens seen

IRAN: BAKHTARAN: Mountains above Kerend, beginning of the road Dalahu, 1700-2000 m, 18.6.1987, *Assadi 60790* (TARI); 40 km from Bisetun to Songhor, E of the main road, Bakktar village, 8.6.1987, 1960 m, *Hamzehee & Hatami 1121* (TARI). — CHAHARMAHAL-E BAKHTIARI: Lordegan, Sarkhon, Shalile to Douab-e Bazoft and Karon, 1200 m, 27.6.1986, *Mozaffarian 54904* (TARI); road from Lordegan to Brojen, Boldaji, kuh-e chiro Bagh-e chiro, 2220-2600 m, 1.7.1986, *Mozaffarian 57318* (TARI); Shahr-e Kord, Baba-Heidar, 2150-2500 m, 1.6.1986,

Mozaffarian 54805 (TARI); top mountain of Saldaron from Deh-e Chesmeh W slope, 2200 m, 16.7.1986, *Mozaffarian* 57869 (TARI). — ESFAHAN: Semirom, Padena, between Tang-e Rigan and Deh-Bid, 1950 m, 11.6.1983, *Nowroozi* 2937 (herb. Esfahari). — KOHGILOUYEH & BOIRAHMAD: Neck mount, between Babameidan and Yasuj, 1800 m, 10.6.1992, *Mozaffarian* 71274 (TARI); 5 km S of Sisakht on the road to Iasuj, 2400 m, 17.7.1983, *Assadi & Abouhamzeh* 46219 (TARI). — KORDESTAN: c. 25 km SSE of Sanandaj, mountains above the village Narran, 2200-2600 m, 15.6.1987, *Assadi* 60377 (TARI); first tunnel, of Sanandaj-Kamyaran Route, 1420 m, 15.5.1986, *Fattahi* 1444 (TARI). — LORESTAN: 39 km from Khorramabad on road to Nowjian and Kashvar, 2150 m, 27.6.1977, *Runemark & Lazari* 26015 (TARI); 45 km on road from Khorramabad to Nowjian and Kashvar, 1850 m, 27.6.1977, *Runemark & Lazari* 26086 (TARI); Khorramabad, 1400 m, 1.7.1970, *Reihani* 25142 (TARI); 55 km from Arak to Malayer, 2100 m, 15.6.1984, *Mozaffarian & Maassoumi* 48079 (TARI); Oshtorankuh, above the village Tihun, 2000-2500, 12.7.1981, *Assadi & Mozaffarian* 37088 (TARI). — HAMADAN: on road of Malayer from Siahkamar to Kordkhorod, Gheshlage Abhenhou, 1900 m, 9.6.1988, *Mozaffarian* 64648 (TARI); Nahavand, Borzol, Gian, kuh-e garrin, 1970-2700 m, 14.7.1988, *Mozaffarian* 65078 (TARI); Lalejin to Taherlu, Jamshidabad and gonbadan, 1900 m, 8.6.1988, *Mozaffarian* 64579 (TARI). — TEHRAN: Arak, Shahzand, Souroneh, 2000-2650m, 17.7.1984, *Mozaffarian* 48281 (TARI); 23 km N of Qazvin, Abdollah-abad, protected area, 1680 m, 1.7.1972, *Foroughian* 15254 (TARI); Markazi, Qarehchay terzahah, 55 km, NW of Tafresh, 9.6.1974, 1300 m, *Amin & Bazargan* 18799 (TARI); Arak, Slope of kuh-e Rasvand from Baba-Khodadad, 2100-2750 m, 10.7.1985, *Mozaffarian* 64057 (TARI); Arak, Hesar, kuh-e Rasvand, 2000-3000 m, 18.7.1984, *Mozaffarian* 48329 (TARI); Arak to Mahallat, Late-dar, Late-dar Mts, *Mozaffarian & Maassoumi* 47966 (TARI); Arak, Toureh, besri, NE of slope kuh-e Aladagh, 2100-3100 m, 11.7.1985, *Mozaffarian* 64066 (TARI); Arak, Shahzand, Hafteh-o Emarat, Alimabad, kuh-e Alvand 2100-2800 m, 8.7.1985, *Mozaffarian* 63875 (TARI). — ZANJAN: 133 km from Zanzan on the road to Bijar, 1750 m, 17.7.1974, *Assadi & Amini* 13581 (TARI).

Note. — *Astragalus kirrindicus* is the most variable and widely distributed species in the section. It is known from western, northern and central Iran. Plants with large leaflets were separated previously as *A. ovalifoliolatus* but further studies led us come to the conclusion that plants with large leaflets are connected by numerous intermediates with typical *A. kirrindicus*, making a separation of two species impossible.

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