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**Autor:** Amin, Amal  
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# Echinops taekholmiana from Egypt

AMAL AMIN

## RÉSUMÉ

AMIN, A. (1987). *Echinops taekholmiana* d'Égypte. *Candollea* 42: 411-415. En anglais, résumé français.

Une espèce nouvelle, *Echinops taekholmiana* A. Amin est décrite d'Égypte.

## ABSTRACT

AMIN, A. (1987). *Echinops taekholmiana* from Egypt. *Candollea* 42: 411-415. In English, French abstract.

A new species *Echinops taekholmiana* A. Amin is described from Egypt.

In a previous paper, AMIN (1973) revised the material of *Echinops hussoni* Boiss. and *E. machrochaetus* Fresen. deposited in CAI and provided a key to separate both species. Later on, more specimens of *Echinops* were collected and studied. In 1977, a peculiar small-headed *Echinops* was collected from northern Nile Delta (Map 1) which was difficult to identify.

HEDGE (1975) gave an account of *Echinops* in Turkey; 16 species were treated and two imperfectly known or doubtfully recorded species were enumerated. FEINBRUN-DOTHAN (1978) enumerates six species from the Flora Palaestina region. RECHINGER (1979) enumerated 76 species of *Echinops* for the "Flora Iranica". The material of the present species was studied at Kew by the author and it was realized it represents a new species not treated in the above works and none of the material in Kew matches it.

The haploid chromosome number of our small-headed *Echinops* is  $n = 14$ , the same as for the closely related *E. spinosus* L. (Fig. 1). All the trials which were done towards collecting ripe seeds of our new small-headed *Echinops* during 3 successive years were without success. Apparently, the newly formed seeds are seriously attacked by insects upon their ripening; the plants seem to propagate vegetatively. In this respect, it was not possible neither to describe the seeds nor to make karyotype study.

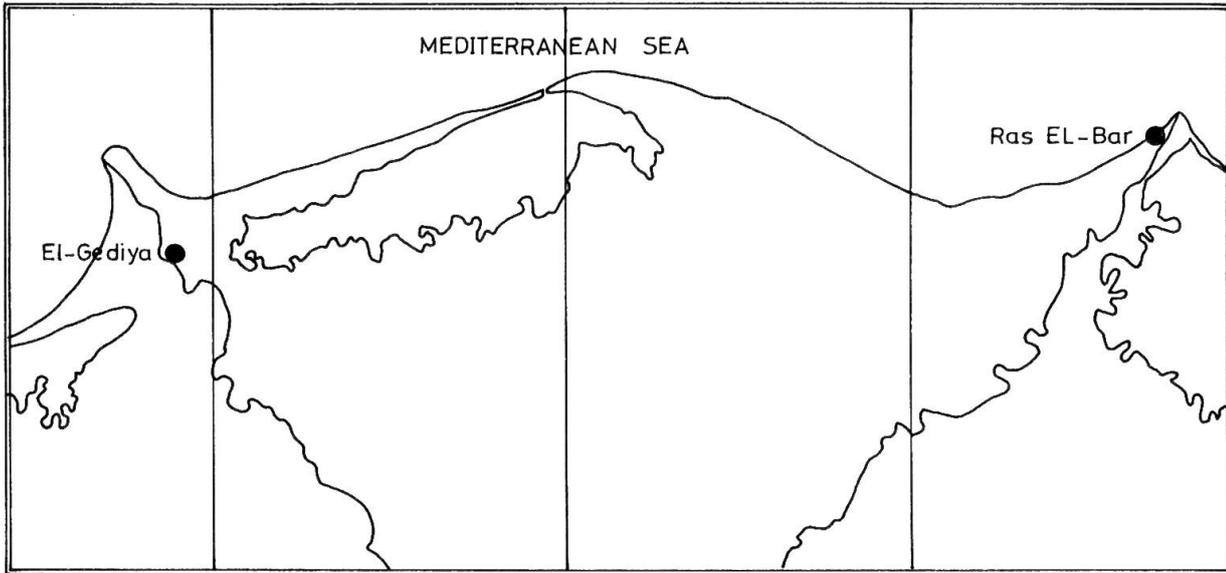
***Echinops taekholmiana***<sup>1</sup> A. Amin **spec. nov.**, aff. *E. spinosus* L., perennis ± decumbent, caulis ± 35 cm altus, capitulum 1.7-1.9 cm diametro, phylla ± 12 quina intima tubum coriaceum.

**Holotype:** Egypt, Northern Nile Delta, 15.7.1977; Amal Amin (CAI), isotype (K).

Perennial decumbent, whitish green herb, 35 cm high. Stem ridged, white tomentose especially at the upper parts. Leaves pinnatisect; leaf lobes narrow linear, revolute margined terminated by a spine. Capitulum 1.7-1.9 cm across. Brush shorter than the outer involucre bracts, penils 2-3, phyllaries ± 12, outer 5-6 mm, medium 10 mm and innermost 5 mm, ranging 9-12 mm (Fig. 2).

It was affinity to *E. spinosus*, however, it differs from it being smaller, whitish green, having smaller leaves and smaller heads. The involucre bracts are without prominent dark vittae whereas it is conspicuous in *E. spinosus* especially the innermost bracts (Fig. 3).

<sup>1</sup>In memory of the late Professor Mrs. Vivi Taekholm.



Map 1. — Distribution of *Echinops taekholmiana*.

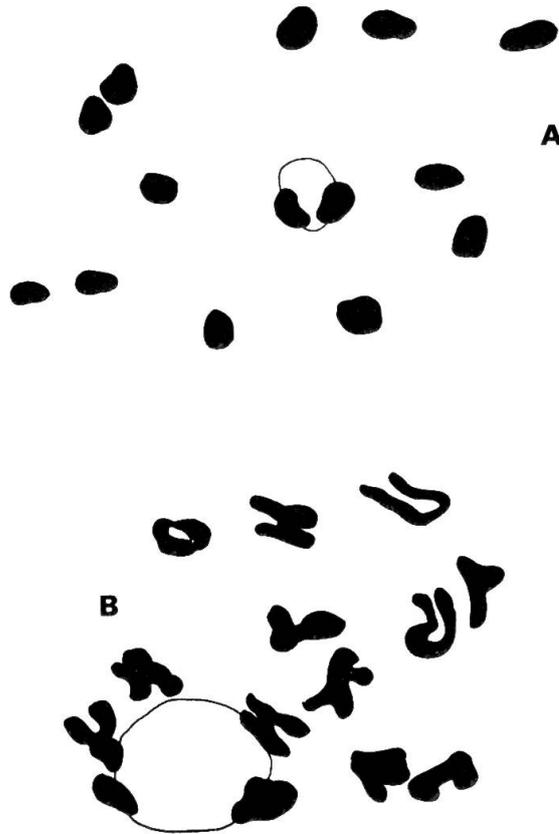


Fig. 1. — Meiotic plates showing chromosome of A, *Echinops spinosus* and B, *Echinops taekholmiana* ( $\times 750$ ).

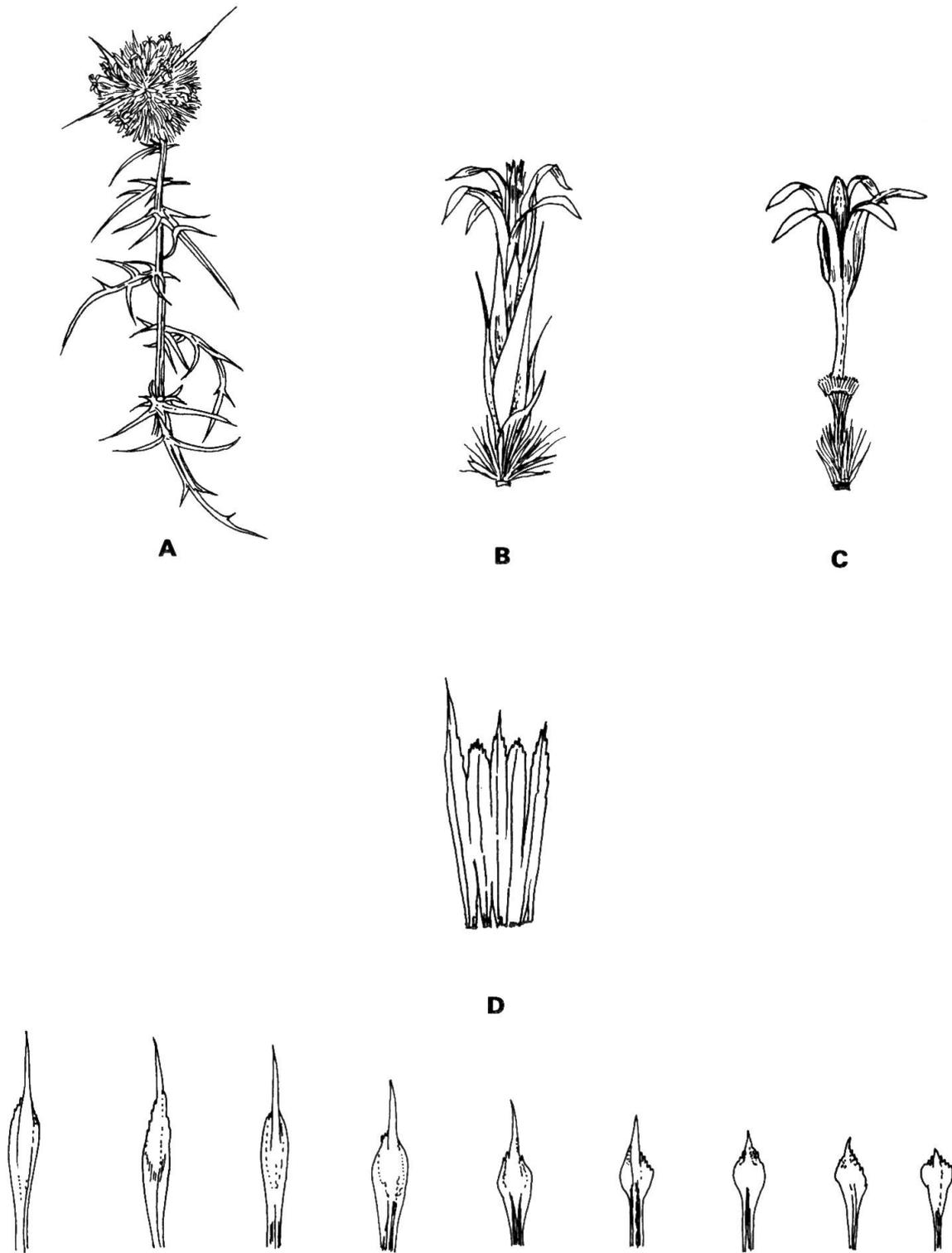


Fig. 2. — *Echinops taekholmiana*: **A**, flowering branch; **B**, one flowered head; **C**, flower; **D**, involucre bracts (A =  $\times 0.7$ , B, C and D  $\times 2.8$ ).

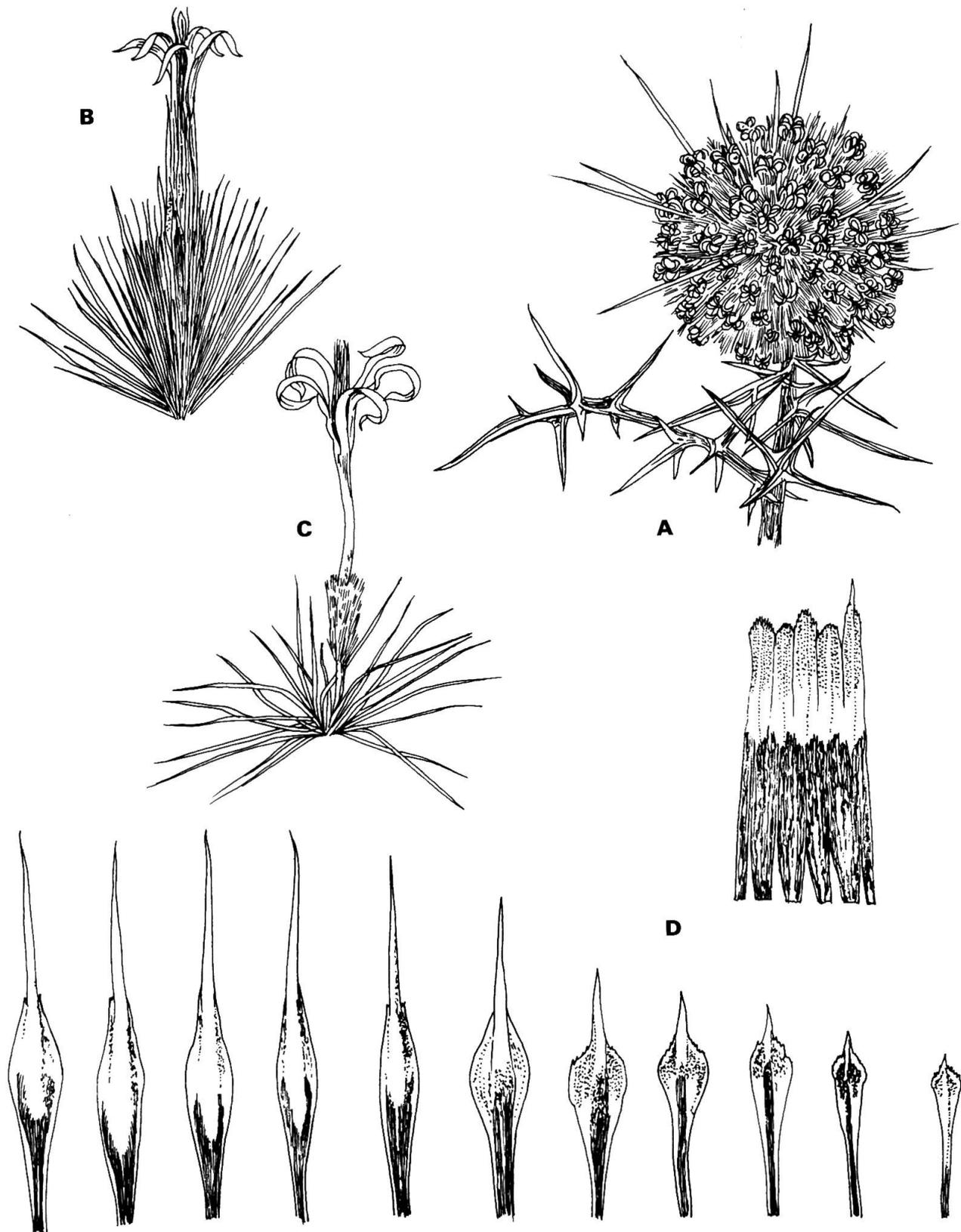


Fig. 3. — *Echinops spinosus*: A, flowering branch; B, one flowered head; C, flower; D, involucre bracts (A =  $\times 0.7$ , B, C and D  $\times 2.8$ ).

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