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# New species of *Calligonum* (Polygonaceae) from Iraq

A. HUSAIN AL-KHAYAT

## RÉSUMÉ

HUSAIN AL-KHAYAT, A. (1988). Une espèce nouvelle de *Calligonum* (Polygonaceae) d'Irak. *Candollea* 43: 273-277. En anglais, résumés français et anglais.

*Calligonum mejidum* et ses deux variétés sont décrites pour la première fois d'Irak.

## ABSTRACT

HUSAIN AL-KHAYAT, A. (1988). New species of *Calligonum* (Polygonaceae) from Iraq. *Candollea* 43: 273-277. In French, French and English abstracts.

*Calligonum mejidum* with two varieties are described as new from Iraq.

Near the southern bank of Thirthar-Lake, ca. 50 km N.W. of Falluja City, two new *Calligonum* taxa were found. Upon comparing these plants with the collections in three main herbaria it was not possible to find a similar collection elsewhere. However they show some affinities, in many respects, to the Russian endemic *Calligonum bakuense* Litw. (in KUMAROV, 1936) which grows in different geographic, climatic and soil conditions. Apart from that, neither "Flora Orientalis" (BOISSIER, 1879), nor the floras of the countries in which this genus occurs (DAVIS, 1966; POST, 1933; RECHINGER & SCHIMAN-CZEIKA, 1968), or even the "Flora or Lowland Iraq" (RECHINGER, 1964) show a species with similar characteristics. Therefore these taxa are regarded as endemic for Iraq.

### ***Calligonum mejidus* Al-Khayat, spec. nov.**

Section: *Pterogobasis*.

Frutex usque ad 150 cm altus; cortice albidus vel albido-griseo; ramuli annotini ad nodos fasciculati herbacei; ramosis striati floriferous; internodiis 2-3 cm longis; ochrea brevis; folia filiform subula; flores 2-4(-5) ni fasciculati, pedicelli inaequalibus 2-5 mm longi, glabri; lobi perigonii 3 mm longi ovati-orbicularis reflexus in fructus; antherae caryophyllaceus; filamentis interdum in perianthii phylla delatatis ad basis barbatus; fructus subglobosus vel oblonga-ovatus 11-15 × 10-14 mm, setos; nux leviter sinistrorum torta cum costae obtusi; alis 1-2 mm latis apice stylorum basi adnatis; costae setis 2 seriatis obsitae quadri-quinquies 3-5 mm longae ± rigidae, furcae terminali patuli subspinescenti; caryophyllacea ubi maturuti, spadiceus ubi siccitate.

A much branched shrub to 150 cm high; the branches flexuous; bark white, sulcate; herbaceous branchlets lateral, clustered at the nodes of annotinous branches branched, all floriferous; internodes 2-3 cm long, terminating in a short ochrea; leaves filiform subulate; flowers 2-4(-5) in fascicle; pedicels unequal 2-5 mm long, glabrous; perigon segments 3 mm long, ovate-orbicular, reflexed in fruit; anthers pink; filaments dilated at base, bearded; fruit subglobose to oblong-oval, 11-15 × 10-15 mm, setose; achene slightly anti-clockwise coiled with bluntish ribs; wings 1-2 mm broad

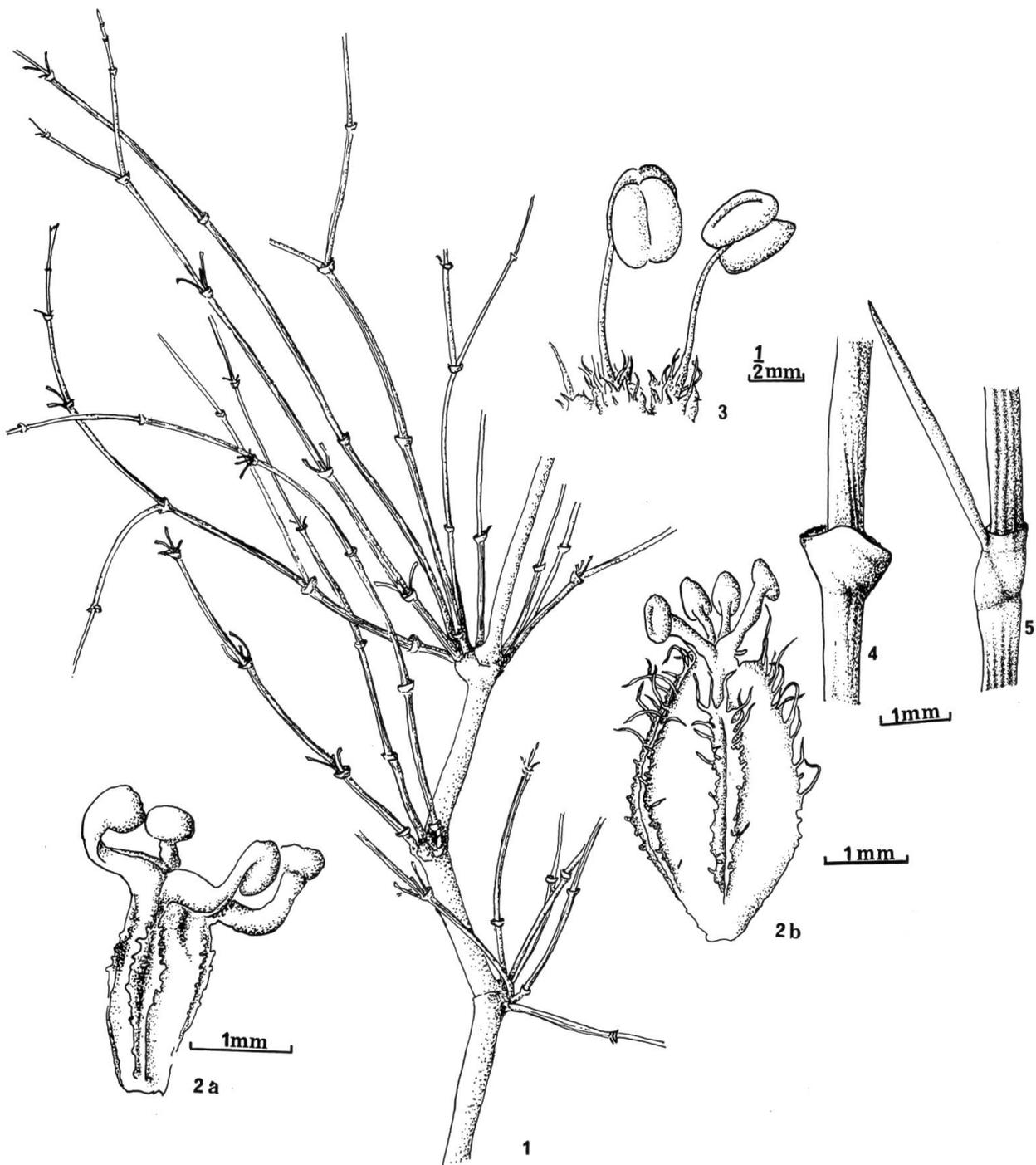


Fig. 1. — *Calligonum mejidum* var. *mejidum*.

1, habit; 2a-b, two development stages of fruit; 3, stamens; 4, ochrea; 5, *C. mejidum* var. *thirtharicum*, ochrea.



Fig. 2. — Distribution of *Calligonum mejidum* in Iraq.

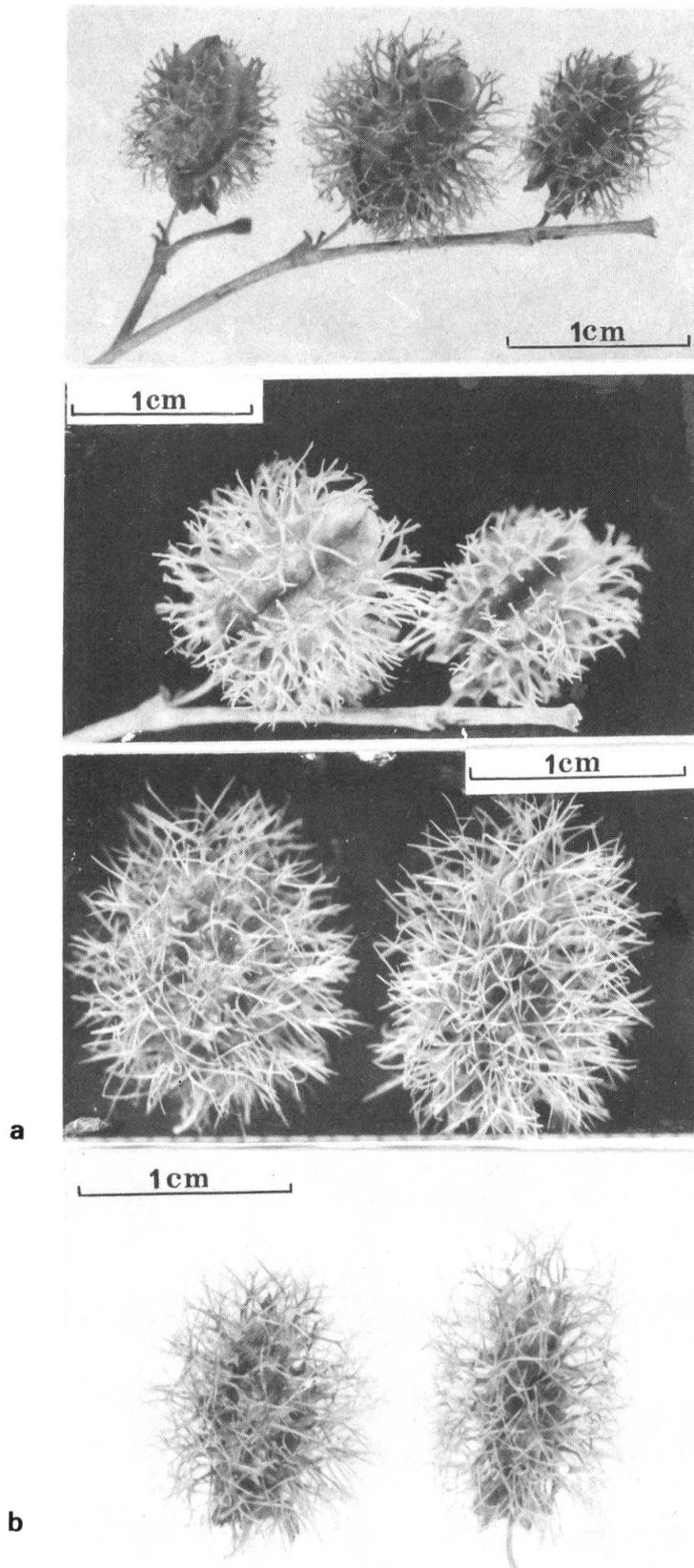


Fig. 3. — *Calligonum mejidum*; the fruit of var. *mejidum* in two development stages (a), var. *thirharicum* (b).

united with base of style, in 2 rows, beset on the margin with flat  $\pm$  stiffish bristles, 4-5 times branched, 3-5 mm long, the terminal spinules spreading subspinescent, partly pink when ripe, becoming light yellowish brown when dried; nut light brown.

*Distribution.* — (DLJ) Southern edge of Thirthar Lake. Endemic.

*Fr.:* April-May. *Hab.:* In arenosis-gypsis.

**Calligonum mejidum** var. **mejidum**

Ochrea cupulatae  $\pm$  coriaceus, in parte inferiore coriaceae brunneae opaceae; folia brevis 2-4 mm longus, mox decidua; cortice albidus; fructus subglobosus vel ovatus 11-14  $\times$  10-13 mm, setae 4 mm longae 4-furcatae, rigidulus; nux elliptica, cellula epidermis manifestus.

Ochrea cup-shaped  $\pm$  leathery, in the lower parts brown-leathery opaque; leaves short 2-4 mm long, soon deciduous; bark white, fruit subglobose or ovate, 11-14  $\times$  10-13 mm, bristles 4 mm long, 4-forked stiffish; achena elliptic, epidermis cells obvious.

*Holotype:* Iraq (DLJ) ad maridiem a lacum Thirtharum, 15.5.1984, *Al-Khayat & Omar 54885* in (BAG). *Isotype:* in Kew et (BUH).

**Calligonum mejidum** var. **thirtharicum** Al-Khayat, **var. nov.**

Ochrea junioris tubulosae membranaceae hyalinae; folia partim decidua, ad summum 12 mm longus; cortice albido-griseo; fructus ovatus 13-15(-16)  $\times$  11-12 mm; setae 4 mm longae 3-4-furcatae  $\pm$  tenuis; nux anguste elliptica, cellula epidermis non manifestus.

Young ochrea tubular membranous pellucid; leaves partly deciduous to 12 mm long; bark greyish; fruit ovate 13-15(-16)  $\times$  11-12 mm, bristles 4 mm long, 3-4-forked,  $\pm$  thin; achene narrowly elliptic, epidermis cells not obvious.

*Holotype:* Iraq (DLJ) ad meridiem a lacum Thirtharum, 15.5.1983, *Al-Musawi 54001* (BAG). *Isotype:* in Kew et (BUH).

*Representative specimens:* (BAG): (DLJ) Thirthar Lake, southern bank ca. 50 km N.W. of Falluja City, *Al-Khaya & Omar 54884, 54885, 54886, 54888, 54889, 54893.* (BUH): (DLJ) Thirthar Lake, southern bank ca. 50 km N.W. of Falluja City, *Al-Musawi 41643, 41644, 41645, 41646.*

*Abbreviations:* BAG = National Herbarium, Baghdad, Iraq. BUH = Baghdad University Herbarium, Iraq. DLJ = Lower Jazira District, Desert Plateau.

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