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Some new and interesting records for the flora of the United Arab Emirates

FAWZI M. KARIM

ABSTRACT

KARIM, F. M. (1995). Some new and interesting records for the flora of the United Arab Emirates. *Candollea* 50: 25-31. In English, English and French abstracts.

Recent extensive floristic collections from U.A.E. especially the Al-Ain, Masafi and Dibba districts in the east and north east of the country, revealed the presence of 11 new taxa for the Flora of U.A.E. These are: *Peristrophe paniculata* (Acanthaceae), *Limeum humile* (Aizoaceae), *Amaranthus spinosus* (Amaranthaceae), *Halothamnus bottae* (Chenopodiaceae), *Lactuca serriola*, *Scorzonera tortuosissima* (Compositae), *Convolvulus glomeratus*, *Evolvulus alsinoides* (Convolvulaceae), *Fimbristylis ferruginea* (Cyperaceae), *Plantago cylindrica* (Plantaginaceae), *Calligonum cirnitum* (Polygonaceae).

RÉSUMÉ

KARIM, F. M. (1995). Quelques nouveautés pour la flore des Emirats Arabes Unis. *Candollea* 50: 25-31. En anglais, résumés français et anglais.

Des recherches récentes dans les districts de Al-Ain, Masafi et Dibba des Emirats Arabes Unis ont permis la découverte de 11 taxons nouveaux pour la flore des E.A.U. Il s'agit de: *Peristrophe paniculata* (Acanthaceae), *Limeum humile* (Aizoaceae), *Amaranthus spinosus* (Amaranthaceae), *Halothamnus bottae* (Chenopodiaceae), *Lactuca serriola*, *Scorzonera tortuosissima* (Compositae), *Convolvulus glomeratus*, *Evolvulus alsinoides* (Convolvulaceae), *Fimbristylis ferruginea* (Cyperaceae), *Plantago cylindrica* (Plantaginaceae), *Calligonum cirnitum* (Polygonaceae).

KEY-WORDS: Flora — United Arab Emirates — Arabian Gulf.

This study is based on collections made during many visits to the east and north-east regions of the United Arab Emirates, bordering the Sultanate of Oman (Fig. 1). This area does not seem to have been well explored botanically and the author was fortunate enough to make records in 1990-1992 of many taxa new for the region but well known however in the Mediterranean region and some other parts of the world.

Topographically the area comprises oasis plains, hills, wadis and mountains. The wadis of these regions mostly crossing sea mail Ophiolite of possible middle Cretaceous age, volcanics, metamorphic rocks and metasediments.

The climate of this region is characterised by low rainfalls and high temperatures; the mean annual rainfall being 70-150 mm in January, the mean maximum air temperature 43.6°C in June while the mean minimum air temperature is 8.5°C in January and the mean annual relative humidity is over 70%.

The assessment of the "new records" is based on "Flora of United Arab Emirates; an Introduction" (WESTERN, 1989), "The Living Desert" (JONGBLOED, 1987) and other Floras of the adjacent countries, e.g. Flora of Saudi Arabia (MIGAHID, 1978), Flora of Iraq (TOWNSEND & GUEST, 1974-1980) and Ecology & Flora of Qatar (BATANOUNY, 1981).

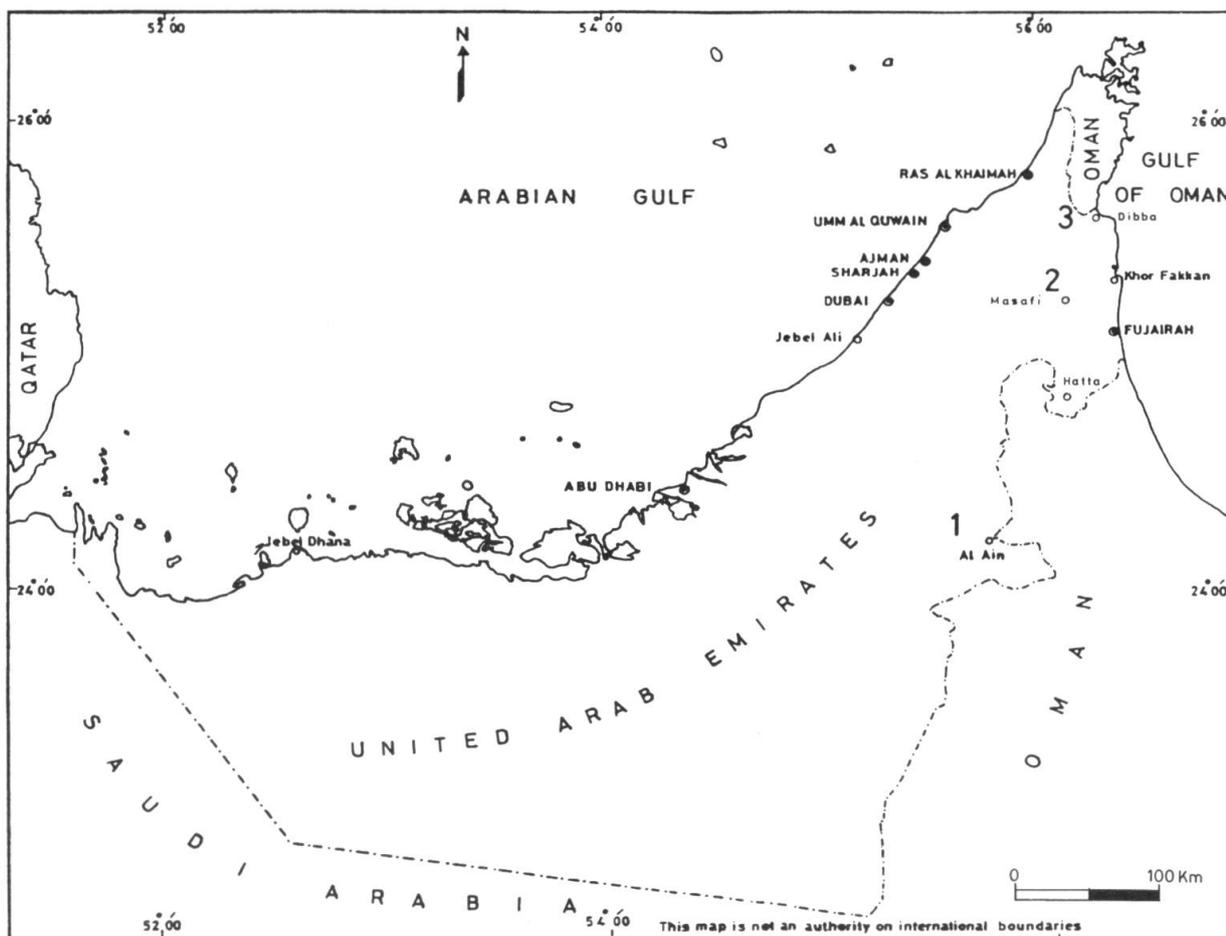


Fig. 1. — United Arab Emirates map showing three districts: 1, Al-Ain; 2, Masafi; 3, Dippa.

Specimens were deposited in the National Herbarium of United Arab Emirates University, The Desert and Marine Environment Research Center in Al-Ain (UAEUH) and duplicates were delivered to the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh (E).

The following is an alphabetical list of the species indicated as “new” in the flora of the United Arab Emirates. The abbreviations used in the text are:

- fl. = flowering specimen
- fr. = fruiting specimen

Acanthaceae

***Peristrophe paniculata* (Forssk.) Brummitt (Fig. 2)**

Syn.: *Peristrophe bicalyculata* (Retz.) Nees

Dianthera bicalyculata Retz.

General distribution. — Mostly found in Tropical Africa, Egypt, India (BHANDARI, 1978), Oman (MILLER & MORRIS, 1988), also found in Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, Al-Oha, 350 m, in the Al-Oha farm, 14.12.1990, F. M. Karim 6717.

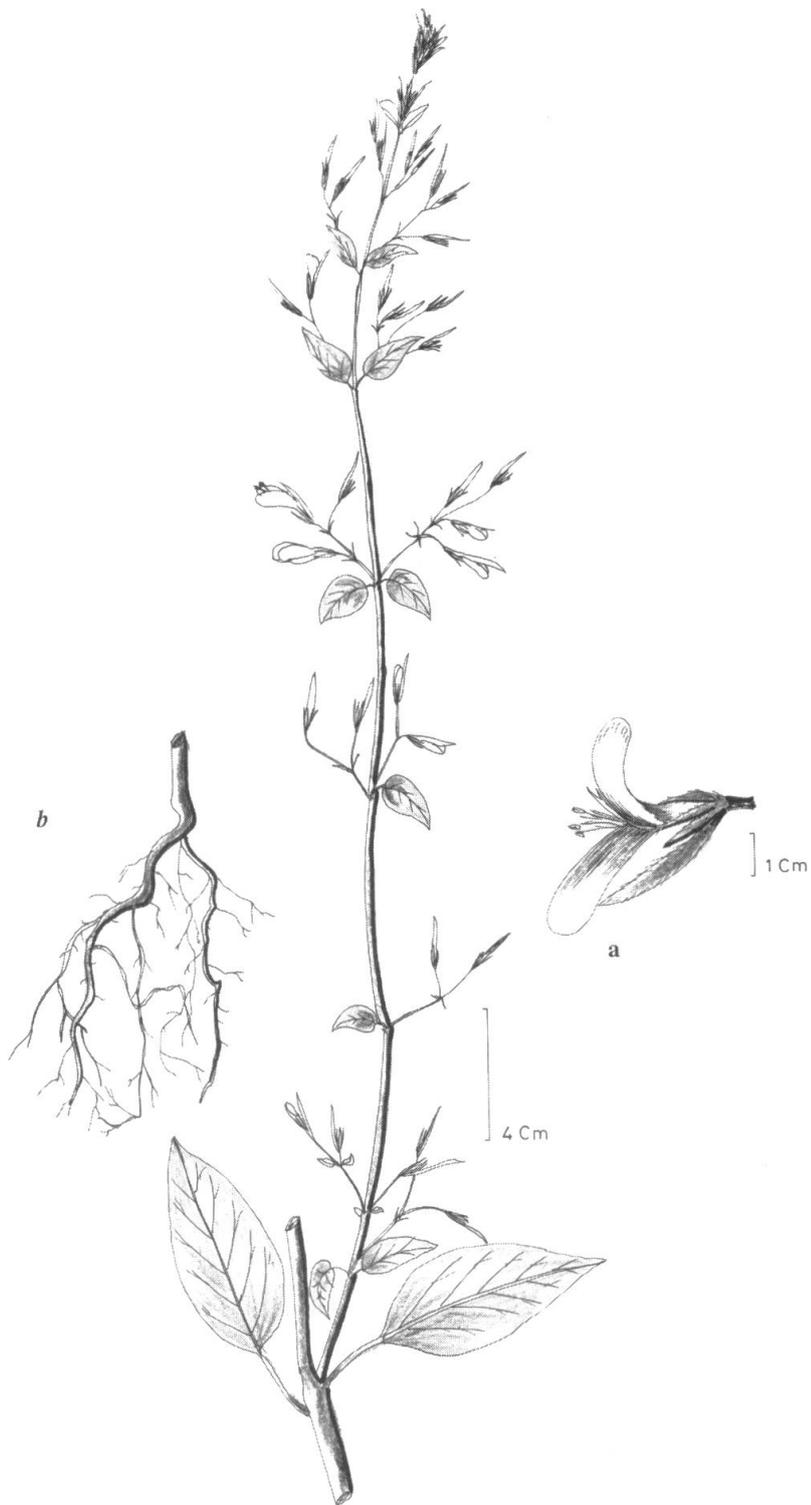


Fig. 2. — *Peristrophe paniculata* (Forssk.) Brummitt
a, flower; b, root.

*Aizoaceae***Limeum humile** Forssk.Syn.: *Limeum obovatum* Vicary

General distribution. — Tropical and S Africa, India, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia (NASIR, 1973), Egypt-Nubia (BHANDARI, 1978), Oman (GHAZANFAR, 1992), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl. & fr.). Al-Ain district, Al-Oha, 350 m, on road side, 22.10.1990, *F. M. Karim* 4774.

*Amaranthaceae***Amaranthus spinosus** L.

General distribution. — It is of Tropical American origin, now a cosmopolitan weed in the warmer regions of the world and also occurring as a casual in some temperate regions; in Pakistan as elsewhere it occurs as a weed of cultivation, roadsides, waste places (TOWNSEND, 1974 and ZOHARY, 1973), also found in Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, near Jebal Hafit, 350 m, Saruje farm, 19.4.1992, *F. M. Karim* 6857.

*Chenopodiaceae***Halothamnus bottae** Jaub. & SpachSyn.: *Salsola bottae* (Jaub. & Spach) Boiss.

General distribution. — It is a West Irano-Turanian element often around rocky limestone hills with thin sand cover (ZOHARY, 1966), Kuwait (AL-RAWI, 1983), Oman (GHAZANFAR, 1992), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fr.). Al-Ain district, near Hafit mountain, 380 m, on hill side, sandy gravelly soil, 31.12.1990, *F. M. Karim* 4989.

*Compositae***Lactuca serriola** L. (Fig. 3)Syn.: *Lactuca scariola* L.

General distribution. — A weed of abandoned farms, fields and waste ground around agricultural areas, chiefly in Europe and Mediterranean region (ZOHARY, 1973 and SHERING, 1989), Iraq (AL-RAWI, 1968), Jordan (AL-EISAWI, 1982) Lebanon, Palestine, Sinai (POST & DINSMORE, 1932-33), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl. & fr.). 10 km. North of Masafi, 500 m, in farm, 20.5.1991, *F. M. Karim* 5310.

Scorzonera tortuosissima Boiss.Syn.: *Scorzonera intricata* Boiss. var. *petraea* Nabélek

General distribution. — Mediterranean and West Irano-Turanian element often around sandy rocky ground (FEINBRUN-DOTHAN, 1977) Iraq (AL-RAWI, 1968), Jordan (AL-EISAWI, 1982), Kuwait (AL-RAWI, 1983), Palestine (POST & DINSMORE, 1932-33), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

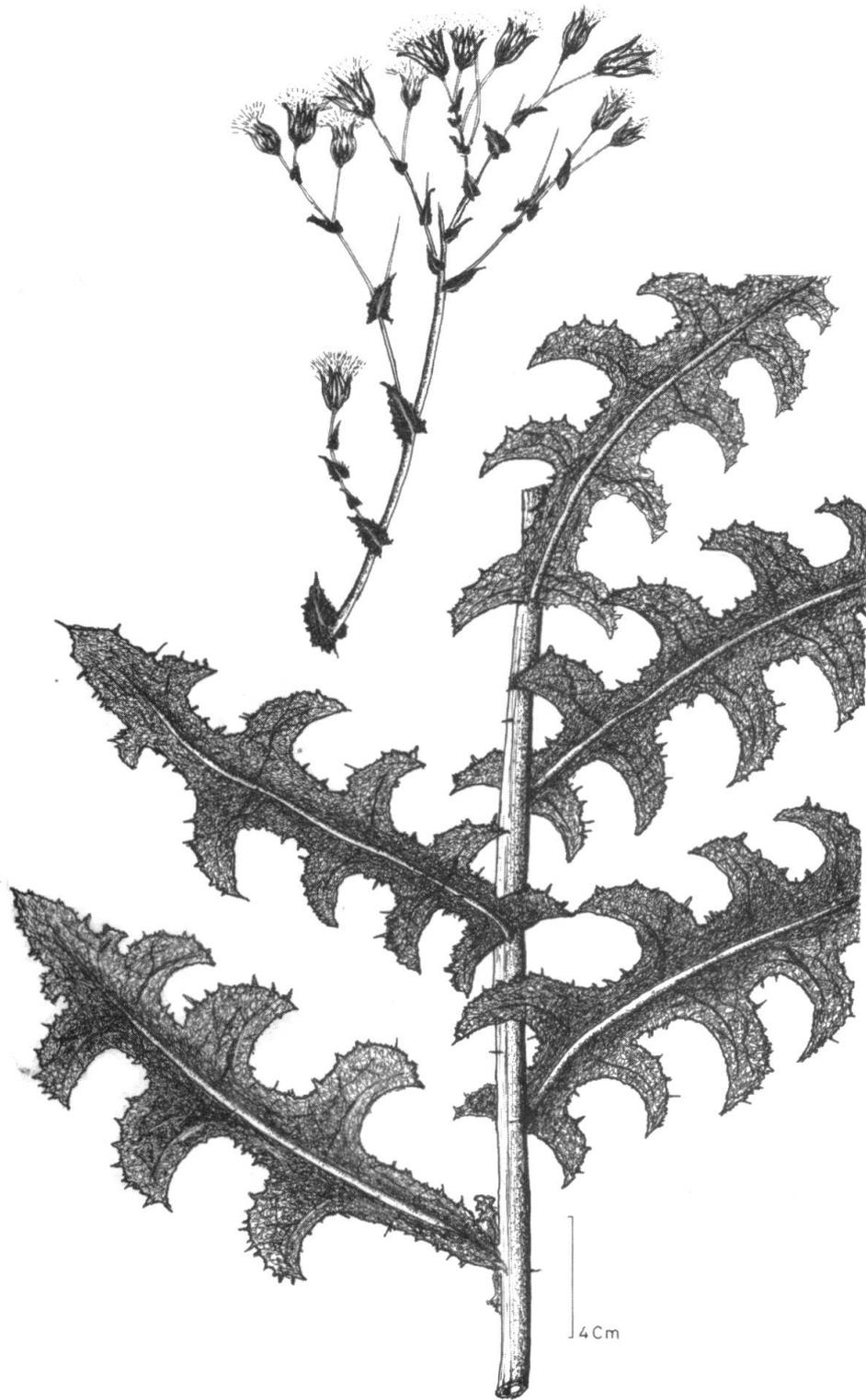


Fig. 3. — *Lactuca serriola* L.

Local distribution. — (fl. & fr.). Masafi to Dibba road, on hill side, among rocks, 25.2.1990, F. M. Karim 6707.

Convolvulaceae

Convolvulus glomeratus Choisy

Syn.: *C. congestus* R. Br.

C. arabicus Hochst. ex Hall. f.

Ipomoea auricoma Rich.

General distribution. — NE Africa (N Sudan, Egypt), Saudi Arabia, Iran, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan (AUSTIN & GHAZANFAR, 1979), Jordan (AL-EISAWI, 1982), Oman (MILLER & MORRIS, 1988), Qatar (BATANOUNY, 1981), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, Kuwaitat farm, 350 m, salty place in the farm, 5.4.1990, F. M. Karim 9645.

Evolvulus alsinoides (L.) L.

Syn.: *Convolvulus alsinoides* L.

General distribution. — Nearly all warm countries, Egypt (TÄCKHOLM & DRAR, 1973), Southern USA through Central and South America, Africa, Iran, India, Pakistan, Ceylon and Malaysia (AUSTIN & GHAZANFAR, 1979), also found in Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, Al-Maqam farm, 350 m, in the farm, 3.2.1990, F. M. Karim 9644.

Cyperaceae

Fimbristylis ferruginea (L.) Vahl

Syn.: *Fimbristylis arvensis* Vahl

Scirpus ferrugineus L.

Scirpus arvensis Retz.

General distribution. — Mostly found in warm temperate marshy regions in the world, Australia, Polynesia, Malaysia and India (BHANDARI, 1978), Egypt, Sudan, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sokotra, Tropical Africa, Palestine, Syria, Anatolia, Rhodes, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Iran throughout India to Hongkong, China, Australia, Central and South America (TÄCKHOLM & DRAR, 1973), Bahrain (CORNES & CORNES, 1989), Lebanon (POST & DINSMORE, 1932-33) and Oman (MILLER & MORRIS, 1988).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, Sueyhan, 120 m, on road side, salty place, 3.3.1991, F. M. Karim 4735.

Plantaginaceae

Plantago cylindrica Forssk.

General distribution. — It is a Saharo Arabian element found in Egypt, Palestine, Southern Iran to Pakistan (KAZMI, 1974 and ZOHARY, 1973), Jordan (AL-EISAWI, 1982), Iraq (AL-RAWI, 1968), Kuwait (DAOUD & AL-RAWI, 1985) and Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fl.). Al-Ain district, Al-Oha, 350 m, sandy gravelly soil, 12.2.1990, F. M. Karim 3505.

Polygonaceae

Calligonum cirnitum Boiss. subsp. **arabicum** (Sosk.) Sosk.

Syn.: *Calligonum arabicum* Sosk.

General distribution. — It is found in Asian desert areas, Beluchistan, Iran, India and Syria (BHANDARI, 1978), Oman (MILLER & MORRIS, 1988), Saudi Arabia (COLLENETTE, 1985).

Local distribution. — (fr.). Al-Faqa, 75 km North West of the Al-Ain, 120 m, sandy soil, on road side, 29.3.1991, F. M. Karim 4564.

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