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Identity of *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn. and *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm. from Iran

Ludwig Martins

Abstract

MARTINS, L. (2007). Identity of *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn. and *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm. from Iran. *Candollea* 62: 41-43. In English, English and French abstracts.

The poorly known *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn., an endemic species of Iran, is shown to be identical with *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm. and to belong to the genus *Rhaponticoides* Vaill. based on morphology. The new combination *Rhaponticoides bachtiarica* (Boiss. & Hausskn.) L. Martins is validated. A full description, illustrations, and type information are presented.

Key-words

ASTERACEAE – CENTAUREINAE – Nomenclature – Taxonomy

Résumé

MARTINS, L. (2007). Identité de *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn. et *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm. d'Iran. *Candollea* 62: 41-43. En anglais, résumés anglais et français.

L'espèce encore peu connue portant le nom de *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn., endémique à l'Iran, est montrée comme étant identique à l'espèce *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm, et comme appartenant au genre *Rhaponticoides* Vaill. sur la base d'observations morphologiques. La nouvelle combinaison *Rhaponticoides bachtiarica* (Boiss. & Hausskn.) L. Martins est validée. Une description complète avec illustrations et caractéristiques du type est présentée.

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In the *Flora Iranica* (RECHINGER, 1980; WAGENITZ, 1980), *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn. and *Centaurea bachtiarica* Hayek & Bornm. were treated as separate species. The capitula of the holotype of *Serratula bachtiarica* (“Persia austro-occidentalis, Teng Mahmud, in declivibus dumetosis et in planitie Ardell, Bachtiani”, VIII.1868, *Haussknecht s.n.*, G-BOIS!) are nearly completely destroyed, the morphological structures that might have given a clue to the generic placement are thus missing. The specimen from which *Centaurea bachtiarica* was described (“Persia australis, Teng Machmud, distr. Bachtiani”, VIII.1868, *Haussknecht s.n.*, W!) possibly originates from the same gathering. In the protologue, HAYEK (1926) mentions a duplicate in the Haussknecht herbarium (now JE), but the two specimens at JE collected by Haussknecht and labelled as *Serratula bachtiarica* in fact belong to *Klasea oligocephala* (DC.) Greuter & Wagenitz, and any material of the species Hayek called *Serratula bachtiarica* is thus missing in the Haussknecht herbarium, as already was mentioned by Bornmüller in an annotation dated 1905 on the herbarium sheet. Examination of the two type specimens revealed that they belong to the same taxon, as the peculiar shape of the cauline leaves (pinnate leaves with strongly asymmetric, decurrent, entire

to shallowly and distantly dentate leaflets) as well as characters of the outermost phyllaries and the stem are identical. Consequently, although *Centaurea bachtiarica* was originally described as a new species, it is treated here as a presumed new combination based on *Serratula bachtiarica* under ICBN Art. 33.2. (MCNEILL & al., 2006).

In the specimen at W, two involucre are well-preserved. The phyllaries are rounded and have a hyaline margin (Fig. 1B), showing congruence to those of *Rhaponticoides* Vaill. (= *Centaurea* L. sect. *Centaurea*) species. According to HAYEK (1926) and WAGENITZ (1980), *Centaurea bachtiarica* belongs to *Centaurea* sect. *Centaurea*, and AGABABIAN (1997) placed it in sect. *Centaurea* subsect. *Ruthenicae* M. V. Agab., which belongs to *Centaurea* subg. *Centaurea*. The latter is recognized as the genus *Rhaponticoides* by GREUTER (2003). Though Vaillant is a pre-Linnaean botanist, a German translation of his relevant papers was published in 1754, thus the name *Rhaponticoides* is made available (GREUTER & al., 2005).

Rhaponticoides bachtiarica (Boiss. & Hausskn.) L. Martins is clearly distinguished from the other *Rhaponticoides* species by entire or slightly and distantly denticulate (rather than dentate) leaf margins and is geographically isolated from them.

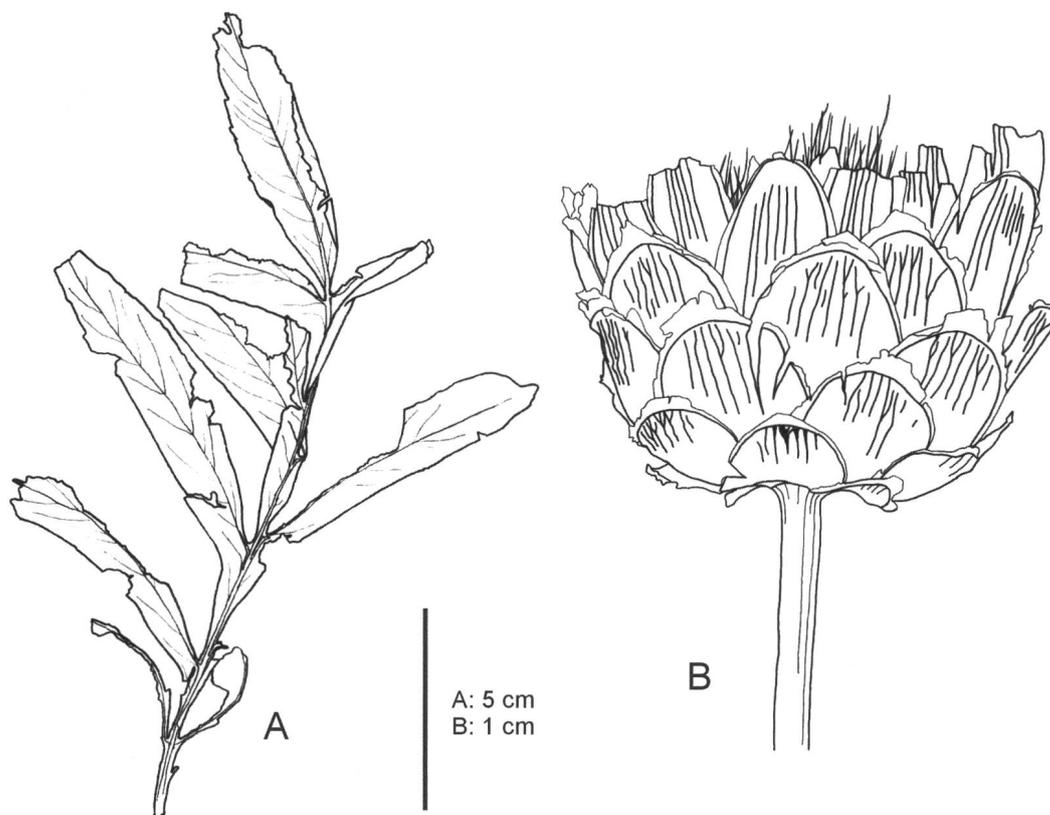


Fig. 1. – *Rhaponticoides bachtiarica* (Boiss. & Hausskn.) L. Martins. A. Lower cauline leaf; B. Capitulum (inner phyllaries and florets damaged). [*Haussknecht s.n.*, W]

Conclusions: taxonomic proposal

As a consequence of the facts given above, the new combination *R. bachtiarica* based on *Serratula bachtiarica* is proposed.

Rhaponticoides bachtiarica (Boiss. & Hausskn.) L. Martins, **comb. nova** (Fig. 1)

≡ *Serratula bachtiarica* Boiss. & Hausskn. in Boiss., *Fl. Orient.* 3: 587. 1875.

≡ *Centaurea bachtiarica* (Boiss. & Hausskn.) Hayek & Bornm. in *Repert. Spec. Nov. Regni Veg.* 23: 272. 1926.

Typus: IRAN: Persia austro-occidentalis. Teng Mahmud, in declivibus dumetosis et in planitie Ardell, Bachtari, VIII.1868, *Haussknecht s.n.* (holo-: G-BOIS!).

Plant perennial, herbaceous, glabrous; stem erect, >100 cm tall, simple or sparsely branched. Basal and lower cauline leaves long-petiolate, pinnatifid, oblong in outline, segments 3-8 pairs, lanceolate, acute, basally asymmetric, decurrent along the rachis, with entire or remotely inconspicuously dentate margin, upper cauline leaves shortly petiolate, linear-lanceolate, entire. Capitula 1-3; involucre ovoid, 22 mm long, 15-16 mm in diameter; phyllaries imbricate, appressed, glabrous, yellowish-green, longitudinally striate, obtuse, with narrow scarious pellucid entire margin, outer phyllaries suborbicular, middle phyllaries oblong, ± 8 mm wide. Clinanthium densely covered with long white bristles. Corolla pale yellow. Pappus 6 mm long.

Remark: The characters of the corolla and pappus could not be observed due to the absence of these parts in the specimens and are taken from the description given by HAYEK (1926).

Iconography. – WAGENITZ (1980: Fig. 301).

Distribution. – Endemic to Iran.

Specimens examined. – IRAN: Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Bachtari, Teng Mahmud in decliv. dumet. et in planit. Ardell, VIII.1868, *Haussknecht s.n.* (G-BOIS); Persia austr., Bachtari, Teng Machmud, *Haussknecht s.n.* (W).

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