

LEYMUS TIANSHANICUS (POACEAE), A NEW NAME FOR THE FLORA OF IRAN

Z. Eftekhari, E. Filehkesh, Gh. Bakhshi & M. Assadi

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Leymus tianschanicus is recorded from Sabzevar area. A short description of the species is given and taxonomic-geographic history of it is discussed.

Zahra Eftekhari and Gholamreza Bakhshi, Payam Noor University, Tangestan 4th, Pasdaran st., Tehran, Iran. –Esmail Filekesh, Research Center of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Sabzevar, Iran. –Mostafa Assadi, Research Institute of Forests and Rangelands, P. O. Box: 13185-116, Tehran, Iran.

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گزارش نام *Leymus tianschanicus* برای فلور ایران

زهرا افتخاری، اسماعیل فیله کش، غلامرضا بخشی و مصطفی اسدی

گونه *Leymus tianschanicus* از ۶۰ کیلومتری جنوب سبزوار و در روی اراضی گچی جمع‌آوری شده است. این گونه با این نام از ایران گزارش نشده است. شرح مختصری از گونه ارائه می‌شود و ارتباط گونه با گونه دیگری به نام *Elymus baldschuanicus* بحث و در نهایت نام *Leymus tianschanicus* برای ایران پذیرفته می‌شود.

Introduction

One of the authors Z. Eftekhari has been studying grass family of Sabzevar area for her M. S. thesis. She together with another colleague made a good collection of the family for the Sabzevar area. Among the specimens an unusual and rather isolated locality for *Lymus tianschanicus* was found which is reported in this paper.

Lymus tianschanicus (Drob.) Tsvelv

Khorasan: 60 Km S. Sabzevar, 2 Km above the village Chah-Sukhteh, 1500-1600 m, Eftekhari & Filekesh. 86990 (TARI).

A rhizomatous perennial plant 60-90 cm. high making a tuft up to 100 cm broad. Culms hairy below the spike. Leaves stiff, glaucous, involute at the margin, ca. 30 cm long and 4 mm wide. Spike ca. 15 cm long, erect; rachis hairy. Spikelets 3 at the nodes. Glumes 1.5 cm long, subulate, as long as the flowers, stiffly hairy. Lemma glabrous on the back, shortly mucronate.

Taxonomic history of the species

Lymus tianschanicus was described from western Tienshan under the name *Elymus tianschanicus* Drob. (Tsvelev 1976). It was known in Flora of the USSR as an endemic of the area and distinct from its relative *Aneurolepidium baldschuanicum* (Roshev.) Nevski (Nevski 1934). The main difference between the two species was based on the size of glumes, 1.4-2 cm in *Lymus tianschanicus* and 2-3 cm in *A. baldschuanicum*. Therefore, the description of our specimen fit to the character of *L. tianschanicus*. In Flora Iranica the name *Elymus baldschuanicus* Roshev. was accepted and it was

recorded from Khorasan province, between Ghochan and Bajgiran (Bor 1970). However, Tsvelev (1976) used the generic name *Lymus* and included the species *Elymus baldschuanicus* as a synonym of *Lymus tianschanicus*. He designated the species as an endemic of Tienshan.

We did not compare our specimen with the type specimen or even materials from Tienshan, but based on the description, Iranian plants fit to the characters of *Lymus tianschanicus*, therefore occurrence of this species in Iran is confirmed.

Ecology of the species

The plant occurs in area ca. 5 hectares in N. slope, of a gypsy mountain. Fruiting time is in about July. The plant is partly dominant in the area but *Artemisia sieberi* is usually a frequent component. Other plants occur in the area are as follows: *Stipa hohenackeriana*, *Zygophyllum atriplicoides*, *Salsola tomentosa*, *Eurotia cerataides*, *Salsola turcomanica*, *Astragalus squarrosus*.

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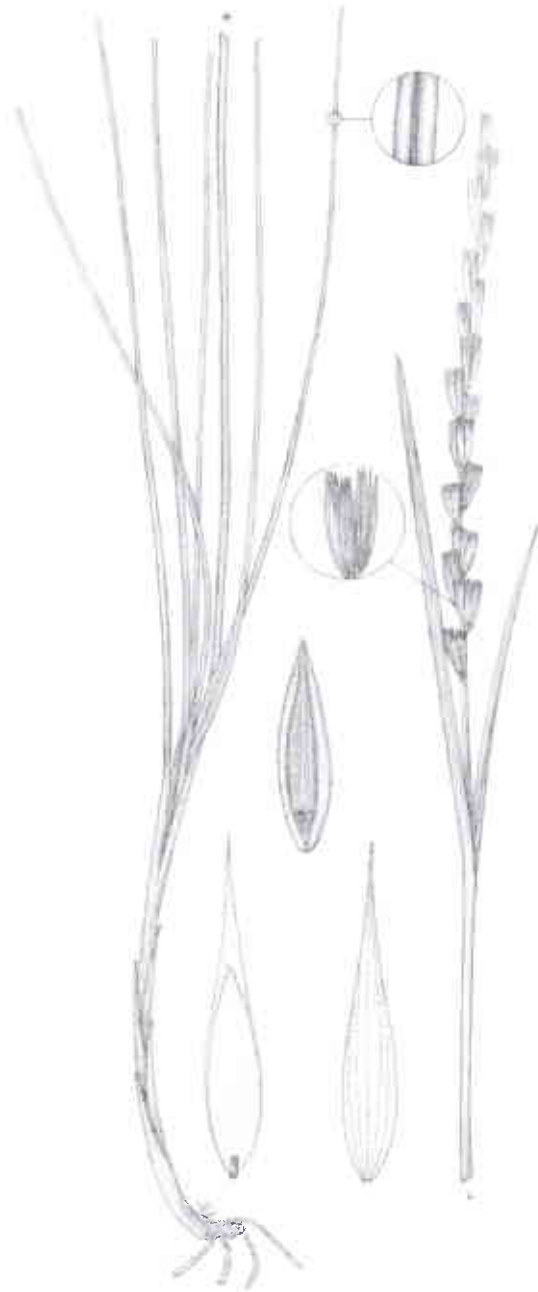


Fig. 1. *Leymus tianschanicus* ($\times 0,36$); flower, lemma and palea ($\times 2$).