

Corydalis firouzii sp. nov. (Fumariaceae) from N. Iran

P. Wendelbo

Abstract

Corydalis firouzii WENDELBO sp. nov. of the section *Leonticoides* is most closely related to *C. chionophila* CZERNJAK and *C. aitchisonii* M. POP. but differs from both in the more divided leaves, from the former also in the yellow corolla and from the latter in the distinctly shorter corolla.

P. Wendelbo, Ariamehr Botanical Garden, P.O. Box 8-6096, Tehran, Iran.

گونه جدید (Corydalis firouzii) (Fumariaceae) از شمال ایران .

از: پیروندلبو

خلاصه

گونه جدید *Corydalis firouzii* از سکسیون *Leonticoides*

است که وابستگی نزدیکی به گونه های *C. chionophila* CZER. *C. aitchisonii* M. POP. دارد ولی با هردوی آنها در تقسیمات بیشتر برگها اختلاف دارد. این گونه همچنین با جام گل زرد رنگش از گونه اولی و کوچکتر بودن جام گل بطور واضح، از گونه دومی متمایز میگردد.

Introduction

During field work for the herbarium of the Ariamehr Botanical Garden (TARI) in spring 1974 a visit was made to Kuh-e Ghatri, a mountain situated north of the town of Shahrud in the province of Semnan. Standing on the top of the mountain, one is just on the dividing line between the dry and the wet parts of Iran; to the south one sees the wide dry high plateau, to the north is the forest which reaches to about 2500m.

On broad ledges of limestone cliffs on the southern side of Kuh-e Ghatri with scattered trees of *Juniperus excelsa* at about 2200 m altitude, a small yellow-flowered *Corydalis* was found to occur plentifully. Later the same plant was found in masses at higher levels, up to about 2500 m, where it was flowering near to melting snow. The plant did not match any of the taxa recognized in

the treatment of *Corydalis* for Flora Iranica (WENDELBO 1974) and is accordingly described below.

***Corydalis firouzii* WENDELBO, sp. nov.**
Sect. *Leonticoides* DC.

Plantae pars supraterranea 4-9 cm longa. Cor-
mus depresso-globosus, parvus, usque maximus
tum caulibus floriferis numerosissimis. Folia 2,
glauca, crassiuscula, $\pm 6 \times 8$ cm, subsessilia usque
brevisiter petiolata, aut biternata foliolis lateralibus
saepe bifidis, segmento uno magno altero parvo,
aut bijugo-pinnata pinnis lateralibus ternatis, folio-
lo terminali magno simplici; foliolium terminale
primarium semper maximum, usque ad 3×2.5 cm,
elliptico-orbitulare, apice rotundatum, petiolulo
usque ad 20 mm longo suffultum. Inflorescentia
2-5-flora, laxa. Bracteae + late elliptico-obovatae,
quam pedicelli paulo longiores, sursum decrescentes.

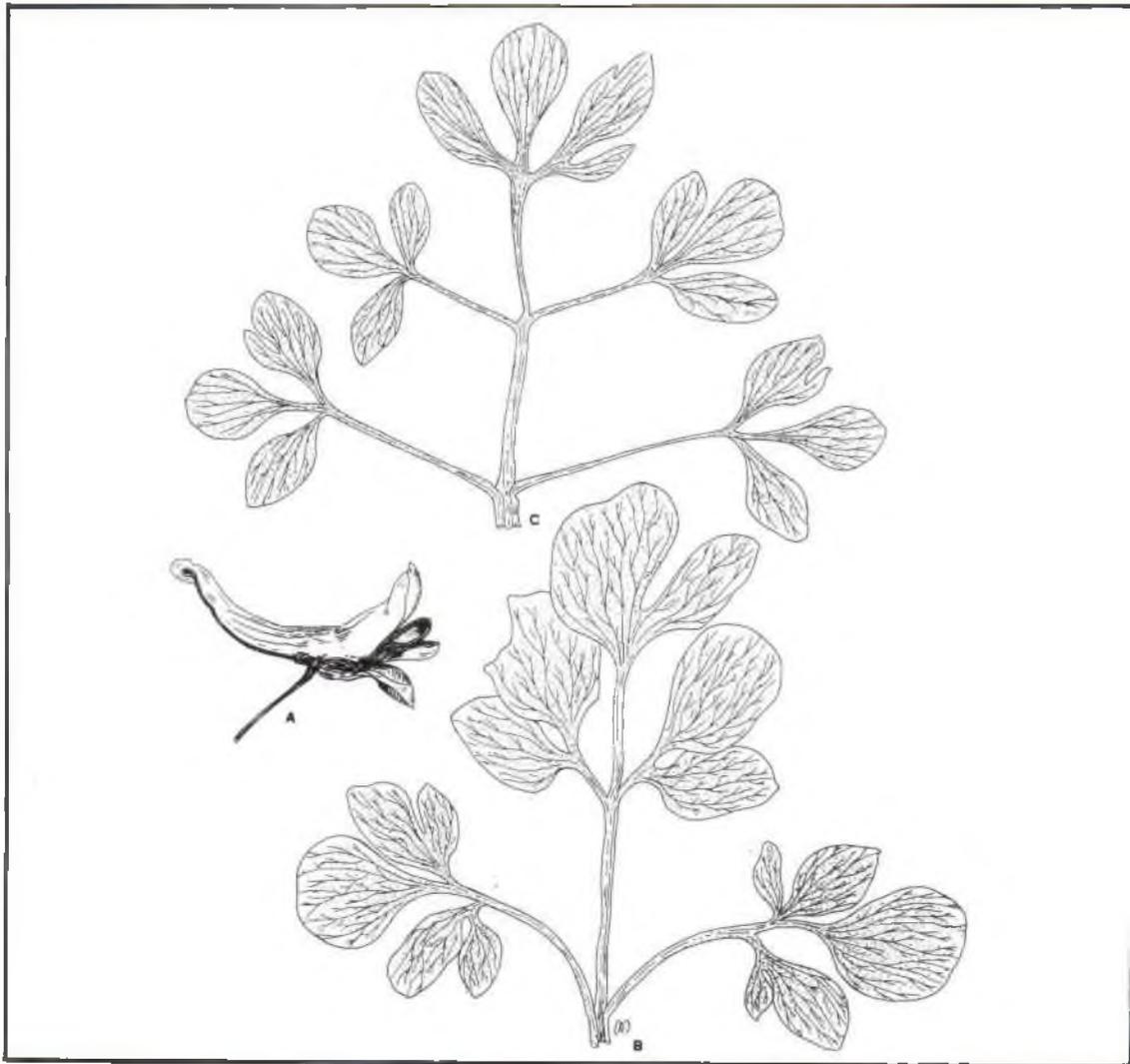


FIG. 1 *Corydalis firouzii*: A. Corolla, B and C. Leaves, about natural size.

Pedicelli infimi sub anthesi usque ad 23 mm longi, superiores sensim breviores. Sepala c. 0.3 x 1 mm, transverse elliptico-oblonga, denticulata. Corolla sulphurea, interdum exeunte anthesi purpurascens, calcare incluso 28-32 mm longa; petala exteriora apice leviter emarginata, alis c. 1.5 mm latis, non cristata, interdum utrinque macula atrobrunnescenti-purpurascenti ornata; calcar pallidiuscule flavum, quam petala subduplo longius, sat tenue, apice saccatum ibique subrecurvum, ceterum †

rectum vel aliquantum sursum curvatum. Capsula ignota.

Iran. Semnan: Kuh-e Ghatri, south side, 2200 m, on broad ledges of limestone rock with melting snow, 3.V.1974, WENDELBO, FOROUGH, SANI & SHIRDELPUR 11162, holotypus TARI, isotypus GB, W.

The new species belongs to the section *Leonticoides* DC. and comes nearest to *C. chionophila* CZERNJAK. and *C. aitchisonii* M. POP. From both



Pl. 1 *Corydalis firouzii* sp. nov. Specimen cultivated in the Ariamehr Botanical Garden. Photo P.W.

of these two species it differs clearly in the much more divided leaves, being either biternate or bi-jugately imparipinnate with ternate lateral leaflets. From *C. chionophila* it furthermore differs in the yellow corolla and from *C. aitchisonii* in the shorter corolla. Ecologically *C. firouzii* seems to grow under the same conditions as the two related species, slopes which are wet from melting snow or from rain in spring at the flowering time – and later become dry during the whole summer.

Geographically the 3 mentioned species are vicariads, *C. aitchisonii* is found in NE. Khorassan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan, *C. chionophila* in Turkmenistan and N. Khorassan as well as in Gorgan, whereas *C. firouzii* is found in northern Semnan just west of the area of *C. chionophila*.

In the key to *Corydalis* in Flora Iranica (WENDELBO 1974, 3) the following amendment should be made (translated into English):

- 16a. Leaves simply trifoliolate or with 2 pairs of pinnae (trifoliolate with terminal leaflet again ternate)..... 17
- b. Leaves more divided..... 18

- 17a. Corolla yellow then becoming reddish brown, 35-55mm long.....
..... 23 *C. aitchisonii* M.POP.
- b. Corolla white tinged purplish, petals with deep purple markings, (20-) 22-34mm long
..... 22. *C. chionophila* CZERNJAK.
- 18a. Spur distinctly longer than petals
+ Corolla yellow
..... 22 a *C. firouzii* WENDELBO
+ + Corolla ± purplish 19
- b. Spur about as long as petals 25

The new species is named in honour of His Excellency Mr. ESKANDAR FIROUZ, Director of the Department of Environmental Conservation, as a tribute to his successful work for the protection of the fauna and flora of Iran.

Reference

WENDELBO, P. 1974. Fumariaceae in K.H. RECHINGER, Flora Iranica. Lfg. 110: 32 pp. –Graz.