

A NEW RECORD OF *ZIZIPHORA* SPECIES (LAMIACEAE) FOR IRAQ

Ali Haloob

Ministry of Agriculture of Iraq, Directorate of seed testing and certification,
Plant department, National Herbarium, Baghdad, Iraq
e-mail: biology_a2000@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Ziziphora persica Bunge is recorded as a new Study in Iraq. This species has been collected from Jabal Sinjar in Nineveh province in the north western part of Iraq. The morphological characters, habitat and geographical distribution of the species with a key to *Ziziphora* L. species in Iraq have been provided.

Key words: Iraq, Jabal Sinjar, Lamiaceae, New record, *Ziziphora*.

INTRODUCTION

Ziziphora comprises some 25-30 species of annual and perennial herbs, distributed throughout Africa, Asia and Europe (Li and Hedge, 1994). Boissier (1879) in Flora Orientalis recognized one taxon belong to *Ziziphora* in Iraq which is *Z. clinopodioides* var. *canescens* (Benth.) Boiss. Later Blacklock (1948) listed 4 taxa that distributed in Iraq: *Z. capitata* L., *Z. clinopodioides* var. *canescens*, *Z. clinopodioides* var. *dasyantha* (M.B.) Boiss. and *Z. tenuior* L, then Zohary (1950) in his study "The Flora of Iraq and its phytogeographical subdivision" listed 4 species *Z. canescens* Benth., *Z. capitata*, *Z. abd-el-asisii* Hand.-Mazz. and *Z. tenuior*, while Al-Rawi (1964) collected all taxa that were mentioned in previous studies and he listed 6 taxa that are recorded from Iraq, however, the first revision of *Ziziphora* in Iraq was made by Al-Bayati (2001) in her thesis, she recognized only 6 taxa: *Z. capitata* subsp. *capitata*, *Z. capitata* subsp. *orientalis* Samuelsson ex Rech. f., *Z. tenuior*, *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *rigida* (Boiss.) Rech. f., *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *kurdica* (Rech. f.) Rech. f. and *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *elbursensis* (Rech. f.) Rech. f., Edmondson (1982) in Flora of Turkey mentioned 5 species and reported that only 2 of them are distributed in Iraq which are *Z. capitata* and *Z. clinopodioides*. While Rechinger (1982) in Flora Iranica mentioned 14 taxa (4 species and 10 subspecies) and recorded that 6 taxa distributed in Iraq which are *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *rigida*, *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *kurdica*, *Z. clinopodioides* subsp. *elbursensis*, *Z. capitata* subsp. *capitata*, *Z. capitata* subsp. *orientalis* and *Z. tenuior*.

During the time of writing, the account of the genus *Ziziphora* for the Flora of Iraq, the author observed one specimen identified as *Ziziphora acutifolia* Montbret & Aucher ex Benth. collected from Jabal Sinjar in northwestern Iraq at the National Herbarium of Iraq (BAG). After closer examination with the Flora of Turkey (Edmondson, 1982) and Flora Iranica (Rechinger, 1982), it was identified as *Z. persica*. The present study aims to report the occurrence of *Z. persica* in Flora of Iraq for the first time and to study morphological characters, habitat and geographical distribution of the species.

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TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Ziziphora persica Bunge, Labiat. Persic.: 39 (1873). (Figure 1)

Synonyms:

Faldermannia persica (Bunge) Nevski, Trudy Bot. Inst. Akad. Nauk S.S.S.R., Ser. 1, Fl. Sist. Vyssh. Rast. 4: 328 (1937).

Ziziphora acinoides L., Sp. Pl.: 22 (1753).

Ziziphora thymifolia Salisb., Prodr. Stirp. Chap. Allerton: 72 (1796), nom. superfl.

Ziziphora subcapitata Hausskn. & Bornm., Mitth. Thüring. Bot. Vereins, n.f., 6: 67 (1894).

Annual herb. Stem erect-ascending, 9-15 cm long, branches at each node below the inflorescences, dense eglandular white pubescent-villose hairs. Leaves lanceolate-linear or ovate, 8-25 × 3-10 mm, margin entire or obsolescent serrulate, apex acute, base attenuate or cuneate, eglandular puberulent hair with sessile yellow glands; petiole 1-2 mm. Inflorescences dense oblong terminal spike, 3-8.5 cm long, verticillasters 2-6 flowered; bract with ± 1 mm long petiole, ovate-broad lanceolate, 6-14 × 3-6 mm, margin ciliate, apex acute-acuminate, base obtuse-rounded. Calyx tubular, swollen at base, 7-8 mm long, throat hairy, upper lip 3-toothed, 1 mm long, lower lip 2-toothed, 1.5-2 mm long, teeth connivent in fruit, dense eglandular hirsute and puberulent hairs with dense sessile yellow glands between veins outside. Corolla pink, 8-10 mm long, tube slightly exerted, upper lip 2-lobed, 1.5-1.7 mm long, apex emarginate, lower lip 3-lobed, c. 2 mm long, lateral 2-lobed broader and shouter than the middle one, tube hairy inside, with the dense puberulent eglandular hair outside. Stamens 2, anthers without appendage. Style branches unequal (Figure 1).

Specimen seen (BAG). Iraq: Jabal Sinjar N slope, 5/6/1979, Al-Kaisi, Al-Khayat & F. Karim 50917.

Habitat: Rocky Mountain; alt. 1100 m.

Distribution: Turkey, Iran, Turkmenistan and Transcaucasia (Edmondson, 1982; Rechinger, 1982). Therefore our specimen show range extension for this species (Figure 2).

Key to *Ziziphora* species in Iraq

1. Perennial herbs *Z. clinopodioides*
1. Annual herbs 2
2. Inflorescence crowded terminal capitate, bracts broad ovate *Z. capitata*
2. Inflorescence spicate, bracts ovate or lanceolate-linear 3
3. Corolla 12-15 mm long, twice as long as the calyx *Z. taurica*
3. Corolla 8-10 mm long, slightly longer than calyx 4
4. Bracts ovate-broad lanceolate, apex acute. Anthers not appendiculate *Z. persica*
4. Bracts lanceolate-linear, apex acuminate. Anthers appendiculate *Z. tenuior*

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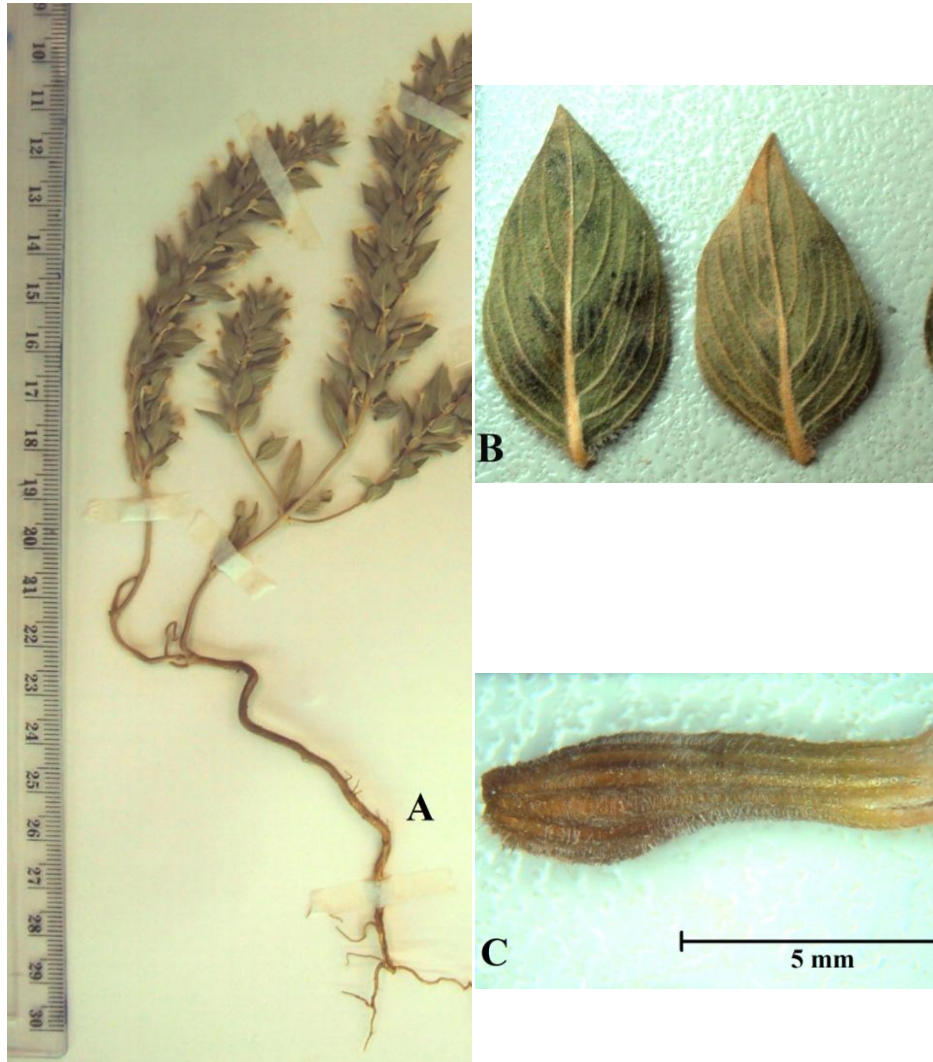


Figure (1): *Ziziphora persica* Bunge (50917 BAG); A: Habit; B: Bracts; C: Calyx.

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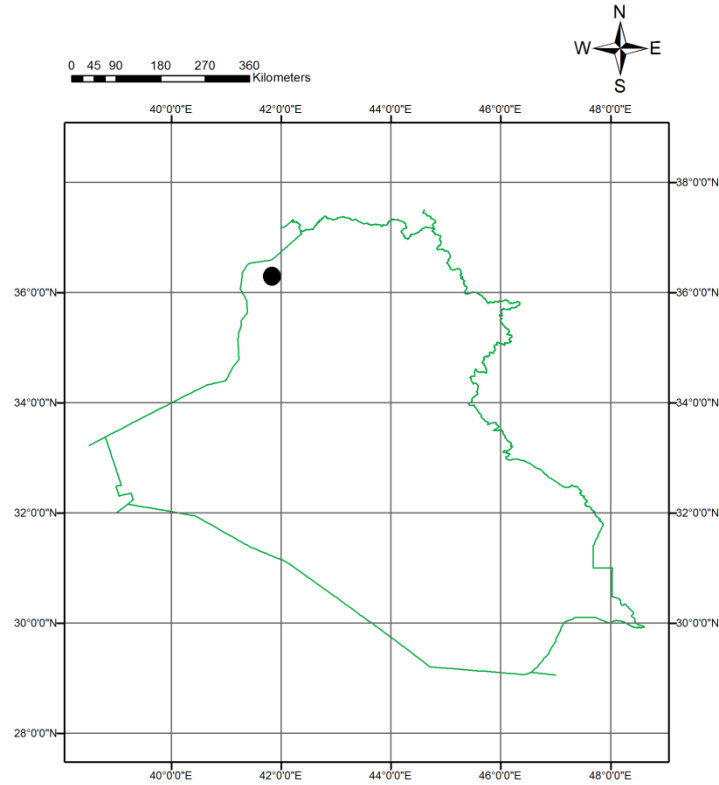


Figure (2): Distribution map of *Z. persica* in Iraq.

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تسجيل نوع جديد للجنس *Ziziphora* (Lamiaceae) في العراق

علي حالوب

وزارة الزراعة / دائرة فحص وتصديق البذور / قسم النبات / المعشيب الوطني
العراق - بغداد

الخلاصة

سجلت الدراسة الحالية *Ziziphora persica* Bunge كنوع جديد للعراق، حيث تم جمع هذا النوع من جبل سنجار في محافظة نينوى شمال غرب العراق. وقد قدمت الدراسة وصف للصفات المظهرية الخارجية والبيئة والتوزيع الجغرافي للنوع مع مفتاح تصنيفي لأنواع الجنس في العراق.