

A New record of *Medicago polymorpha* variety (Leguminosae) in Iraq.

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Abstract :

Medicago polymorpha var. *Spotii* is record as a new study in Iraq. This variety has been collected from Al-Jadiryah campus in Baghdad .The morphological characters, habitat of the species have been provided.

Key words: Iraq, Al-Jadiryah campus, New record, *Spotii*.

تسجيل ضرب جديد للنوع

***Medicago polymorpha* (Leguminosae) في العراق.**

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مستخلص:

سجلت الدراسة الحالية *Medicago polymorpha* var. *spotii* كضرب جديد في العراق، حيث تم جمع هذا الضرب من مجمع الجادرية في محافظة بغداد وسط العراق. وقد قدمت الدراسة وصف للصفات المظهرية والبيئة للضرب. الكلمات المفتاحية: العراق ، مجمع الجادرية ، تسجيل جديد ، مبقع .

Introduction

Medicago comprises some fifty species of Annual or perennial herbs, distributed in the temperate regions, mainly in Mediterranean Europe, N. Africa and W. Asia, some also in central Asia and S. Africa (Townsend & Guest, 1974). The genus *Medicago* was described for the first time by the scientist Linnaeus who illustrative the characters of nine species of it (Linnaeus, 1753), which belong to the order Trifolieae according to Bentham & Hooker classification (1865) in which they refer that the genus has 40 species, while Boissier (1872) in Flora of orientalis divided the species of *Medicago* to three section according to permanence characters and fruits. The number of species belonging to the genus varies according to the regions of its study as it recorded 30 species in the flora of Syria, Palestine and Sina (Post, 1932) and 15 species in Egypt (Tackolm, 1956), and 30 species in Turkey (Heyn & Davis, 1970), and 37 species in Europe (Tutin, et al. 1968), and 6 species in Saudi Arabia (Migahid, 1978), and one species in Kuwait (Daoud, 1985), and 22 species in Jordan (Karim & Quraan, 1988), and 36 species in Russia (Bobrov & Tzvelev, 2004), and 3 species in Qatar (Norton, 2009), and 28 species in Cyprus (Hand et al., 2011). In Iraq Richenger (1964) refer that the genus contains seven species that grow in lowland areas of Iraq, while Townsend (1974) indicated that the genus had 16-17 species distribut-

ed into five divisions according to several characters, the most important of which are the characters of Seeds and Fruits. Zohary (1950) in his study "the flora of Iraq and its photogeographical subdivision" mention about 12 species of *Medicago* in Iraq, Boissier (1972) in flora orientalis recognized 36 species belong to *Medicago* genus, while the flora of Iraq mentioned 16-17 species of *Medicago* one of them is *M. polymorpha* which contain three varieties which recognized by Heyn all of which are sympatric and tend to run into one another which are *M. polymorpha* var. *polymorpha*; *M. polymorpha* var. *vulgaris* and *M. polymorpha* *brevispina*; (Townsend & Guest 1974), while the flora of turkey recorded just two varieties *polymorpha* and *vulgaris*, in the time that Al-Rawi (1964), count about 16 species and two variety of *M. polymorpha* (var. *apiculate* & var. *denticulata*).

This study record a new variety for the genus collected from Al-Jadriyah campus in the middle of Baghdad which have a purple blotch in the base of leaflet while the flora of Iraq mention that the species *M. polymorpha* never blotched. The present study aims to record *M. polymorpha* var. *spotii* as a new record in the flora of Iraq and study morphological characters, habitat and geographical distribution of the variety.

Morphological describe

Procumbent or ascending herbs about 10-60 cm., have many branched

from the base and with long ascending branches upward the stem; stem and the branches with simple trichomes. Stipules 8-12 mm; deeply toothed oblong-acuminate laciniate. Leaflet cuneate-obovate 10-23×7-17 mm; truncate to retuse or deeply emarginate at the apex with very small cusp and few scattered appressed trichomes. Petiole about 35-70 mm; reducing upwards; peduncle with thinly hairy of simple hairs, 20 mm bearing 2-5 flowers. Inflorescence 5 mm in diameter, the axis not provided with arista, pedicels very short reaching less than 1 mm calyx 3 mm have few hairs, teeth rather lon-

ger than the tube, lanceolate-subulate, slightly unequal with some black spots. Corolla yellow standard sub orbicircular emarginate above about 3.7-2.5 mm longer than the wings; wings 3 mm keel shorter than the wings about 2.5 mm. Pod discoid with 3-3.5 coil, glabrous, 5-8 mm in diameter excluding the spins, have numerous radial veins of each coil surface appreciably anastomosing towards the suture to form a distinctly reticulate pattern; spins variable in length, forked (figure 1).

Habitat: Mainly in and around fields, sides of irrigation channels.

Distribution: Baghdad town.

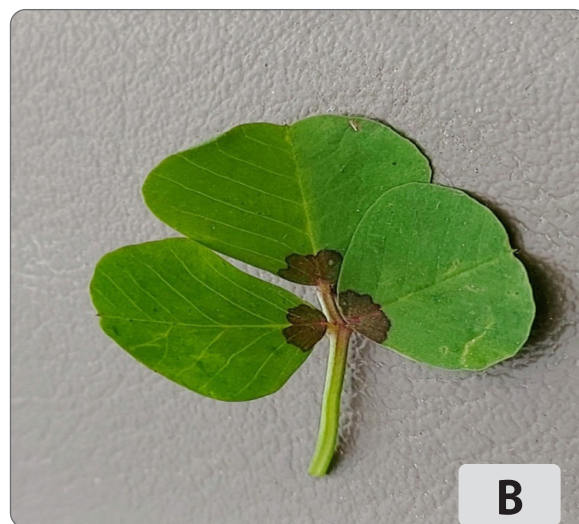


Figure (1): *Medicago polymorpha* var. *spotii* (50480); A: Habit; B: Leaf

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