

Two genera of Compositae new to the flora of Jordan

by

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Abstract:

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Two new genera of Compositae (Asteraceae) are recorded for the first time to the flora of Jordan. The genera are *Dipterocome* as represented by the species *D. pusilla* and *Siebera* represented by the species *S. pungens*. A map of distribution within Jordan will be given.

An intensive collection was made in 1992 from various places in Jordan during the spring season. Within these new collections two new genera of Compositae, *Dipterocome* and *Siebera* were discovered. The genera are represented by the species *Dipterocome pusilla* and *Siebera pungens*.

The material of the two genera was checked at the herbaria of Munich, Botanische Staatssammlung (M) and Geneva, Conservatoire et Jardin botanique (G).

The specimens of the two genera are deposited at the Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, Faculty of Science, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan. A map of distribution showing the localities of the two genera is provided.

Dipterocome pusilla Fisch. & C.A.Mey.

Syn.: *Jaubertia koelpinioides* Spach, *Koelpinia sessilis* Boiss.

The genus *Dipterocome* was firstly described by FISCHER and C.A.MEYER (1835) from Persia, Azerbaijan. Then it was described as *Jaubertia* by SPACH 1849; the same genus was treated by BOISSIER in his *Diagnoses plantarum orientalium novarum* (1849) as new species *Koelpinia sessilis*. BOISSIER in his *Flora Orientalis* (1875) retreated *Koelpinia sessilis* equivalent to *Dipterocome pusilla*.

RECHINGER (1989) in his *Flora Iranica* gives the distribution of this genus as Syria, Armenia, Iraq, Persia, Afghanistan.

POST (1932) in *Flora of Syria, Palestine and Sinai* gave the distribution of this genus as Syr. des. Sun-Fadal to Jab. Abyad, Jab. Mawrayadah, Aun-Khunayfis, Hamah to Palm., Dam. It is clear that there is no mention of Palestine, Jordan or Sinai.

DAVIS (1975), *Flora of Turkey*; FEINBRUN-DOZHAN, *Flora Palaestina*; MIGAHID (1978), *Flora of Saudi Arabia* and TACKHOLM (1974), *Students' flora of Egypt* do not record this genus as to occur in these countries or in Jordan.

Material seen:

Jordan: Eastern Desert: Mushash; 10 km S. of Qasr Al-Kharranah, 30 April 1992, *Al-Eisawi 16369 - B*; Karak: Lajun; Qatrana-Karak road, at the starting point of the wadi; 2.7 km. N.W. of the main road track, 6 May 1992, *Al-Eisawi 16926*.

Siebera pungens (Lam.) J. Gay

Syn.: *Xeranthemum pungens* Lam.

FEINBRUN-DOTHAN (1978), *Flora Palaestina* did not record this species as to occur in either Palestine or Jordan.

POST (1932), *Flora Palestine, Syria and Sinai* recorded this genus with the species *S. pungens* and the var. *nana* DC. The distribution of this genus was restricted to Syria and Lebanon as follows: Antioch to Aleppo, Aintab, Mar'ash; Leb. Tawmat-Niha, Diman to Hasrun; Syr. Des. Bil'as to Pal.; Coelesyr. Antileb. Jab. Manshura.

GRIERSON & KUPICHA in DAVIS, P.H. (1975), *Flora of Turkey* recognised two species of *Siebera* as *S. pungens* and *S. nana*. They give the distribution of this genus as Lebanon, Syria, N. Iraq, Iran, S. Transcaucasia, Afghanistan. It is clear that Palestine and Jordan are not included in the distribution of this genus.

Although there are two species considered in the flora of Turkey the herbarium material which was studied in both herbaria at Munich (M) and Geneva (G) was not well separated into two distinct species.

Material seen:

Jordan: Karak: Mu'ta; Mirwid, Nushainish, 700 km E of Nushainish, Wadi Nikhil. 6 May 1992, *Al-Eisawi 16798*.

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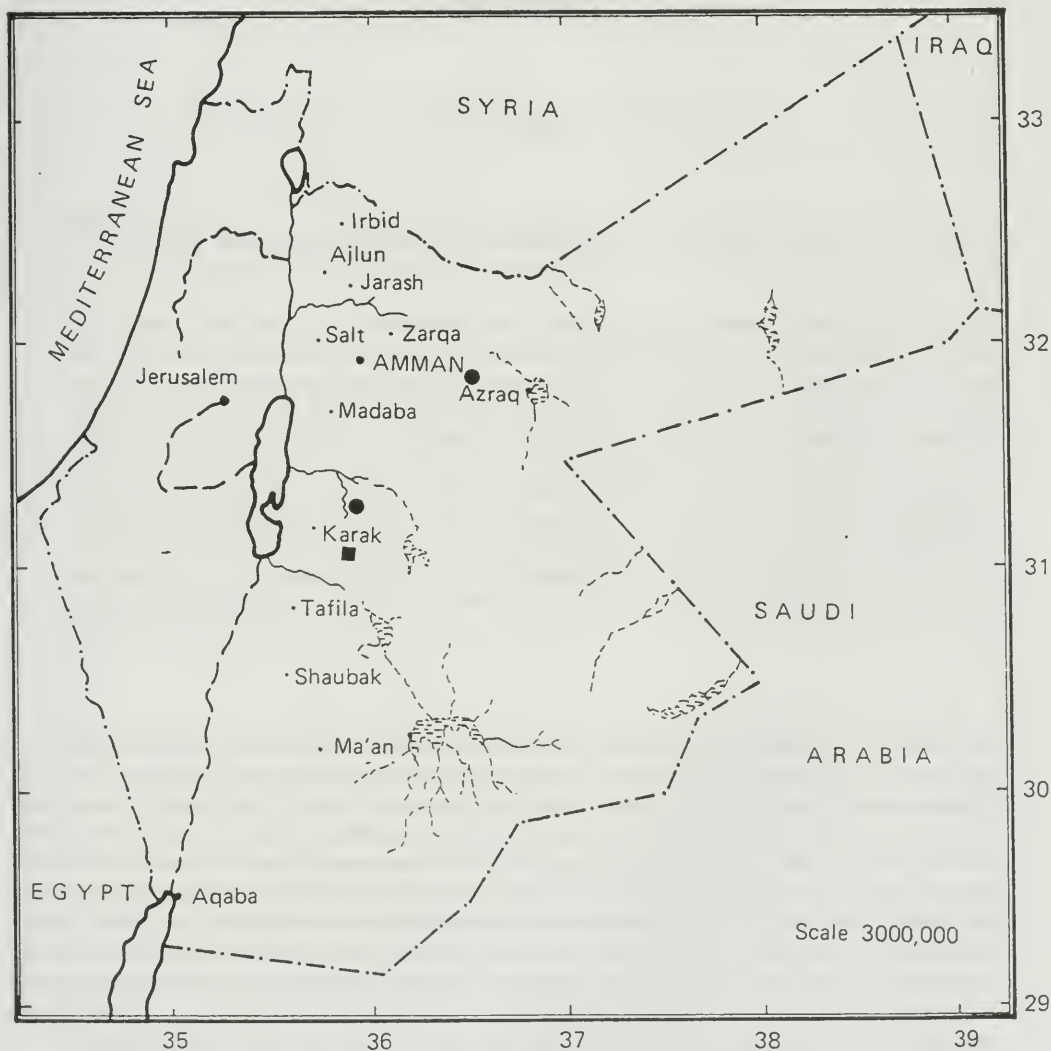
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Map of Jordan showing the distribution of the new taxa

- *Dipterocome pusilla*
- *Siebera pungens*

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