

A new *Astragalus* L. (*Fabaceae*) species from Uzbekistan

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Abstract: *Astragalus rusanovii* F. O. KHASS., SARYBAEVA & ESANKULOV (sect. *Paraxiphidium*) is newly described. Its relationship to another allied Pamir-Alain species is discussed.

Zusammenfassung: *Astragalus rusanovii* F. O. KHASS., SARYBAEVA & ESANKULOV (sect. *Paraxiphidium*) wird neu beschrieben. Seine Verwandtschaftsbeziehung zu einer anderen Art aus der Pamir Alai Region wird diskutiert.

Key words: Taxonomy, *Astragalus*, Central Asia, description.

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Introduction

Several collecting missions have been made by the senior author during last 20 years in the area of the Pamir-Alai mountain chains. Several new *Astragalus* species have been described (*A. neobotschantzevii* F. O. KHASS., GAFFAROV & TURAK., *A. nenilini* F. O. KHASS., & I. I. MALZEV, *A. nigrocarpus* F. O. KHASS., & I. I. MALZEV and *A. belolipovii* KAMELIN ex F. O. KHASS. & N. SULEJMANOV) from the area of Hissar, Turkestan and Nuratau mountain ranges. The last species was described recently (KHASSANOV & SULEJMANOV 2010) on the basis of plants cultivated in the Botanical Garden in 1975. The only available specimen has been chosen by R. Kamelin as a holotype. In 2010, during a collecting mission to Zaomin (Guralash) reserve special attention has been made for the locus classicus of that species in order to collect living plants. Several plants of this species were collected. Moreover, one more *Astragalus* species has been found there as well.

New description

Astragalus rusanovii F. O. Khass., Sarybaeva & Esankulov sp. nov. (sect. *Paraxiphidium* Kamelin)

Frutex 30-50 cm altus, cortice fuscenti-griseo. Ramuli hornotini dense adpresse pilis bipartitis albis, interdum nigris sparsis intermixtis, canescenti-pilosi. Stipulae triangulares, triangulatae-lanceolatae vel lanceolatae, 2-4 mm longae, herbaceae albo nigroque pilosae. Folia 5-15 cm longa, petiolo quam rachis multo brevior, albo piloso necnon pilis nigris solitariis obsito. Foliola 2-5 –juga, elliptica vel anguste linearia, apice obtusata, plurimum brevissime apiculata, utrinque adpresse pilosa. Pedunculi axillares, 10-25 cm longi, pilis adpressis albis et paucioribus nigris pilosi. Racemi densi multiflori 2-7 cm longi. Bractae oblongae vel lineari-lanceolatae, 4-6 mm longae, albo nigroque pilosae. Pedicelli bracteis breviores. Flores erecto

vel horizontaliter patentes. Calyx tubulosus 12-16 mm longus, albo vilosus et adpresse nigro pilosus; dentibus lineari-subulatis, nigro pilosis tubo 3-4 plo brevioribus. Corolla rosea. Vexillum 20-25 mm longum; lamina obovata, apice rotundata glabra, basi in unguiculum cuneato-attenuata. Alae 20-22 mm longa. Carina 18-20 mm longa. Legumina horizontaliter patentia vel subnuttantia, anguste-linearia, dorso rosea, 20-24 mm longa, ca 6 mm lata (rostrum ca 5 mm longum), albo et nigro pilosa.

Ab *A. iskanderi* LIPSKY lamina vexilli extus complete glabriscente et albido-rubescence differt.

Habitat ad montium Turkestanici (Asia Media, Pamir-Alaj Occidentalis).

T y p u s : Pamir-Alaj Occidentalis, montes Turkestanici, prope pagum Kuljsaj, N 39°38'45.3", E 68°19'49.1", 2400 msm, 27.07.2010, Khassanov, Esankulov (TASH, isotypus LI).

E t y m o l o g y : Species in honorem Prof. Dr. Nikolaj Rusanov Tashkentensis denominata est.

Discussion

The senior author collected *A. iskanderi* in its classical location (surroundings of Iskanderkulj lake, Zaravschan range) in 1985. The flowers were violet and vexillum only was hairy on the outside. Two specimens of *A. iskanderi* are presented and have been studied in TASH (Upper Zaravschan (Kuhistan), basin of river Fan (Pasrud, Chan-Dara), juniper forests, southern slope, 2400 msm, Zakirov. Popov, Sergeeva, 16.06.1940; Samarkand district, Iskanderkulj lake, Beter, 19.06.1916). The same characters were found as well. The plants we collected in the Zaomin reserve were rather close to *A. iskanderi*, but the flowers were pinkish-white and naked (Fig. 1). Moreover, the fruits are reddish having rather long beaks and calyx has blackish stripes (Fig. 2). Comparison of the plants from Zaomin reserve and Zaravschan ones showed that they are separate spe-



Fig. 1: Inflorescence and flowers of *A. rusanovii* sp. nov.



Fig. 2: Fruits of *A. rusanovii* sp. nov.

cies. Astonishingly, the presence of rather long white hairs on the outside of the vexillum of *A. iskanderi* was not mentioned in the first description made by LIPSKY (1907), neither in Flora of USSR (VASSILCZENKO 1946), nor in the Flora of Uzbekistan (GONTSCHAROV 1955). R. Vinogradova revised this group (sect. *Paraxiphidium*) isolated but not legally described by KAMELIN from section *Xiphidium* BUNGE in the *Conspectus Florae Asiae Mediae* (1976) and there was not any notice about hairy vexillum of *A. iskanderi* in her determination key. Nevertheless, this unique character for all the representatives of *Xiphidium* s. l. was mentioned by KOROLEVA (1937) and RASSULOVA in the Flora of Tadjikistan (1981).

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