

A New Species of *Astragalus* L. (Fabaceae) from Uzbekistan

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Abstract: Description of a new *Astragalus* species found in the western part of Uzbekistan and Afghanistan is given.

Zusammenfassung: Eine neue *Astragalus*-Art aus dem westlichen Usbekistan und Afghanistan wird beschrieben.

Key words: Taxonomy, *Astragalus*, Uzbekistan.

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Introduction

There are about 270 species of genus *Astragalus* L. in the flora of Uzbekistan and 650 species in the flora of Middle Asia. There are several sections within the genus with main center of diversity in the mountains of Tien-Shan and Pamiralaj systems. Section *Laguopsis* BUNGE is one of them and it can be characterized by inflated calyx united in a very dense inflorescence (TSUKERVANNIK 1981). Most of the species could be treated as a strict endemic species of small mountainous ranges. There is no doubt that area of Middle Asia is one of the main centers of diversity in the Old World, as well as area of Iran and Turkey (PODLECH, 2013).

Results and Discussion

During last collecting mission in the Western Pamiralaj one new species belonging to section *Laguopsis* was collected in the western spur of Aktau (named Bakhiltau). Within this section one species has white hairs on the calyx only. This species is endemic to the separated Kuldzhuktau range located in the center of Kysulkum desert – *A. centralis* E. SHELD. (Fig. 1). The closest relative species – *Astragalus pulcher* KOROV. (Fig. 2) – was described from Nuratau range situated 100 km northern. But this species has also black hairs mixed to the pressed white ones. The new species collected in Bakhiltau has very small calyx and

flowers comparatively to the above mention species. It also reminds *A. subschachimardanus* N. BASIL. which is strict endemic of Kughitang range, but this species has pressed hairs in all the parts of the plant.

***Astragalus saidi* F. O. KHASS. & ESANKULOV sp. nov.**
(section *Laguopsis* BUNGE) (Fig. 3).

Perennial plant 15-20 cm high. Stems 1-3 cm high. Stipules 3 mm lg., covered by white hairs. Leaves 3-5 cm lg., 2-3-jugated. Leaflets 1 cm lg., lanceolate, covered by pressed white hairs. Flower stalks several 10-15 cm high with white hairs. Inflorescence dense 1-1,5 cm in diam. Bracts 1-1,5 mm lg. with black hairs on the top. Calyx tubular, then inflated, 6-8 mm lg., white and pinkish on the top, covered by distant white hairs and several black ones on the teeth, 1mm lg. Corolla whitish violet. Vexillum 10-12 mm lg., not sinuated. Alas 8-10 mm lg., not sinuated. Carina 6-8 mm lg. Legumes unknown.

H o l o t y p e : Uzbekistan. Bakhiltau range, Kelif-Sherabad range; 15 km eastern town Nurata, stony slope; N 40°23'46,95", E 65°54'48,92"; 1300 m.s.l.; 31.05.2014; A. Esankulov (TASH).

Ab *A. pulcher* Korov. foliis 2-(3)-jugi (nec 4-6), calyce minoribus et albo-pilosis, vexillo minore nec sinuosis differt.

Species in honorem Prof. Dr. Said Esankulov Dzhizzakensis denominata est.



Fig. 1: *Astragalus centralis* E. SHELDT.



Fig. 2: *Astragalus pulcher* KOROV.

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Fig. 3: *Astragalus saidi* sp. nov.