

A NEW SPECIES OF *SCORZONERA* L. (CICHORIEAE- ASTERACEAE) FROM PAKISTAN

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Abstract

Scorzonera baluchistanica R. Mehdi & R. Abid is presented as a new species from Pakistan. Its detail description with illustration and a comparison with two closely related species i.e., *S. Koelpinioides* Rech.f. and *S. longipapposa* Rech.f. along with key is also provided.

Key words: *Scorzonera* – Cichorieae – Asteraceae – new species – Pakistan.

Introduction

Scorzonera L. belongs to the tribe Cichorieae of the family Asteraceae. It comprises about 180 species all over the world (Shih & Kilian, 2011) and mainly distributed throughout the Mediterranean region and central Europe to central Asia (Bremer, 1994; Shih & Kilian, 2011). Due to the taxonomic complexities and lack of finer details of floral features, genus *Scorzonera* have ever been a matter of controversy, some previous workers widened the concept of the genus with an heterogenous assemblage of taxa and introduced infrageneric classification (DE Candolle, 1938; Boissier, 1875; Hooker, f., 1881; Rechinger, 1977; Lipchitz, 1998). While, on the other hand, Bremer (1994) and Shih & Kilian (2011) did not accept the infrageneric treatments and treated the genus in a strict sense. Similarly, from Pakistan, genus *Scorzonera* is treated without infrageneric status (Stewart 1972). During the preparation of its account for Flora of Pakistan authors came across the specimen which could not be placed within any known species of the genus *Scorzonera*. Thus, to accommodate this specimen a new species is described and illustrated. An artificial key and a comparison with closely related species is also provided.

Taxonomic treatment: *Scorzonera baluchistanica* R. Mehdi & R. Abid (Figs. 1, 2)

Perennial, semi-prostrate, non-tuberous, 25 cm tall herb, plant mostly farinose. Stem highly branched with distinct root collar, branches flexible. Basal leaves linear-lanceolate, 50-80 x 1 mm, narrow, entire, plicate, acute, curved, hairy. Cauline leaves linear, 30-50 x

1mm, narrow, acute, recurved, hairy. Peduncle rigid, 2-4 cm long. Capitula campanulate, bending towards the lower side. Leaves on peduncle triangular, 3 x 1 mm, entire, acute, hairy. Involucre 2-seriate, 11 mm at anthesis, enlarged to 14 mm at fruiting, tomentose. Outer phyllaries ovate, 4 x 1 mm, inner ones linear 15 x 1 mm. Florets yellow. Cypsela 9-10 mm long, curved, 10 ribbed, grey, glabrous. Pappus bristles uniseriate, 15 mm long, 25-30, dirty white.

Holotype: Quetta; Walli Tangi, 12.7.1988, Tahir Ali & Tufail Ahmed 1378 (KUH).

Etymology: The species is named after the locality Baluchistan from where the species was collected.

Distribution: Endemic and known from type locality.

Scorzonera baluchistanica R. Mehdi & R. Abid resembles with *S. koelpinioides* Rech.f. and *S. longipapposa* Rech.f. in having intricate and curved branches, non-tuberous roots, linear basal leaves and non-muricate cypsela but it is closest to *S. koelpinioides* by having the capitula bending towards the lower side. On the other hand, the new species differs from both the above species by its herbaceous, semi-prostrate habit and non-woody stem with distinct root collar. while, *S. koelpinioides* and *S. longipapposa* are undershrub with woody stem, without a distinct root collar and both the species could remain distinct by having circinate branch apex, brownish cypsela with pappus bristles upto 16mm long in *S. koelpinioides*, while, *S. longipapposa* is characterized by the presence of non-circinate branch apex, greyish cypsela with 22-24 mm long pappus bristles.

Key to the related species

- 1 + Semi-prostrate herb, stem not woody with a distinct root collar *S. baluchistanica*
- Undershrub, stem woody without a distinct root collar 2
2 + Branch apex circinate, cypsela brownish, pappus bristles upto 16 mm *S. koelpinioides*
- Branch apex not circinate, cypsela greyish, pappus bristles 22-24 mm long *S. longipapposa*



Fig. 1. Type specimen of *Scorzonera baluchistanica*.

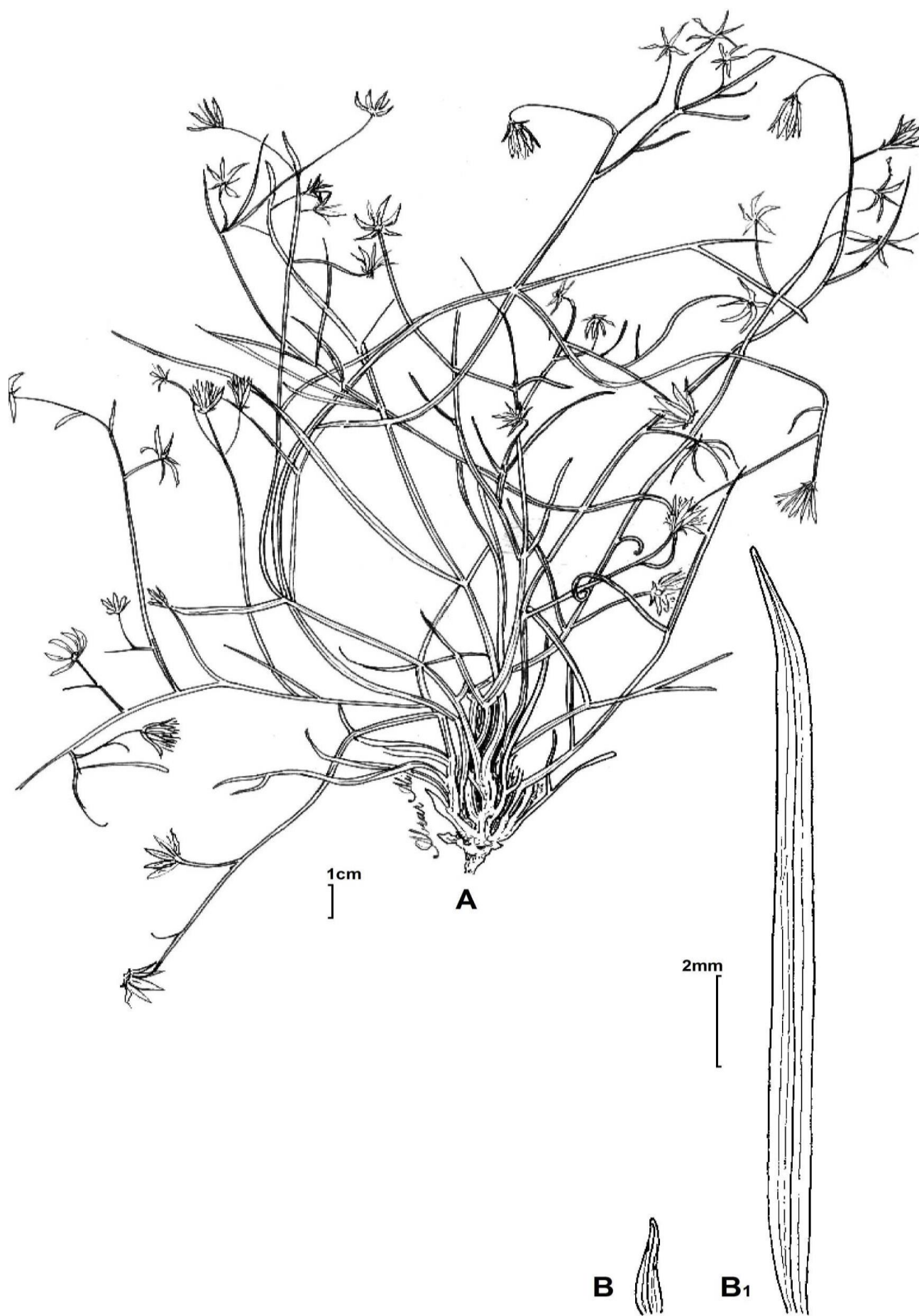


Fig. 2. *Scorzonera baluchistanica*: A, habit; B and B1, phyllaries (outer and inner)

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