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Range of *Dendrostellera lessertii* (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh.

The Irano-turanian genus *Dendrostellera* Van Tiegh. from the family *Thymelaeaceae* is represented by small subshrubs or shrubs usually not taller than 50 - 60 cm (exceptionally *D. arenaria* Pobed. reaches up to 2 m) occurring in semidesert or desert regions in sunny places on stony, sandy, gravelly or clayey soils. This genus was not treated monographically yet and its systematic identity is not accepted by all since it is being sometimes included in the genus *Stellera* L., section *Dendrostellera* C. A. Mey. (Mouterde, 1970; Nasir, 1971). The number of taxons of the genus *Dendrostellera* is not known accurately, particularly since opinions about their systematic rank vary. In the last 30 years this genus was studied more by Pobedimova (1949, 1954) and Peterson (1972).

Pobedimova (l.c.) has identified 5 new species for region of Middle Asia in the USSR and a further for Iran. According to her the genus has 10 species, six of which included in section *Angustifoliae* Pobed. are representatives of Middle Asiatic flora whereas four from section *Latifoliae* Pobed. represent the Iranian flora. On the other hand Peterson (l.c.) describing the exceptionally rich herbarium collections of *Dendrostellera* from the region of "Flora Iranica" does not agree with this view and considers *D. lessertii* as a polymorphic species and believes that it should include such taxa as *D. griffithii* (Meissen.) Van Tiegh., *D. persica* (Boiss.) Pobed., *D. ramosissima* Pobed., *D. glaucescens* Pobed. and possibly also *D. olgae* Pobed. from Turkmeniya. Accepting this point of view the genus *Dendrostellera* has only six species.

At the same time it appears that the range of *D. lessertii* is among the largest in the genus and extends well beyond the frontiers of Iran. According to Pobedimova it is an Iranian endemite.

In the present investigation I have accepted the view of Peterson (1972) and the point map of distribution of *D. lessertii* has been constructed on the basis of herbarium materials and data from literature (Fig. 1). This range covers, besides Iran, such countries as Iraq, Syria, Turkmeniya, Afghanistan and Pakistan. According to Nasir (1971) *D. les-*



Fig. 1. The distribution of *Dendrostellera lessertii* (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh.

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WYDZIAŁ KOWALCZIK

sertii is to occur also in Kashmir, however, I have not found any specific information that could indicate this. Besides Nasir (l.c.) and Peterson (1972) include Caucasus in the range, which, however, is not confirmed in Grossheim's "Flora Kavkaza".

From the prepared map it clearly appears that the center of the range falls in Iran and here the greatest accumulation of stands is to be found. Both in the westerly and in the easterly direction from Iran the number of stands clearly declines. It is not unlikely however, that this map reflects only the inaccuracies or insufficiency of floristic investigations in various regions and not the actual state of the species distribution. Most isolated from the continuous range are the few Syrian sands quoted by Mouterde (1970).

In its vertical distribution *D. lessertii* is also substantially differentiated. In the north west of Iran, in province Ghilan, the shrub appears from an elevation of 100 m, while in the mountains it grows even above 2000 m. Thus for example on Mt. Alvend it has been found from elevation of 2700 m and in the Elburz mountains, even up to 3000 m. In Afghanistan the elevational distributions is much smaller and *D. lessertii* occurs between 700 and 2000 m. The lowest located stands are to be found in Iraq (and possibly in Syria), in regions below 100 m.

As regards the conditions in which this species grows some more data on the subject is given by Zohary (1973) who includes *D. lessertii* among species characteristic for plant communities of central Iran. They quote it for several associations from the class *Artemisietea herbae-albae*, such as: *Artemisia fragrans* — *Atraphaxis spinosa*, *Artemisia herba-alba* — *Stipagrostis plumosa*, *Artemisia herba-alba* — *Salsola incanescens*, *Artemisia herba-alba* — *Pteropyrum olivieri* and *Dendrostellera lessertii* — *Astragalus microphysa*.

SUMMARY

Accepting the systematic view of Peterson (1972) the author prepared a point map of distribution of the range of *Dendrostellera lessertii* (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh. on the basis of herbarium collections and data from the literature. This small shrub from the family *Thymelaeaceae* is an Irano-turanian species. Its center of distribution falls in Iran and it grows also in Iraq, Syria, Turkmeniya, Afghanistan and Pakistan, on semidesert and desert regions. In its vertical distribution it has been reported from Iran from elevations between 100 and 3000 m and from Afghanistan between 700 and 2000 m. The lowest stands of the species are known from Iraq, below 100 m.

LITERATURE

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KAZIMIERZ BROWICZ

Zasięg Dendrostellera lessertii (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh.

Streszczenie

Przyjmując pogląd systematyczny Petersona (1972), autor opracował punktową mapę zasięgu *Dendrostellera lessertii* (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh. na podstawie zbiorów zielnikowych i danych z literatury. Ten drobny krzew z rodziny *Thymelaeaceae* jest gatunkiem irano-turańskim. Centrum jego zasięgu przypada na Iran, a ponadto rośnie jeszcze w Iraku, Syrii, Turkmenii, Afganistanie i Pakistanie, na półpustynnych i pustynnych obszarach. W swym pionowym rozmieszczeniu podawany jest z Iranu z wysokości między 100-3000 m, a z Afganistanu między 700-2000 m. Najniższe położone stanowiska znane są w Iraku — poniżej 100 m. n.p.m.

КАЗИМЕЖ БРОВИЧ

Ареал Dendrostellera lessertii (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh.

Резюме

Принимая во внимание систематические взгляды Петерсона (Peterson, 1972), автором, на основании гербарных материалов и литературных источников, разработана точечная карта ареала распространения *Dendrostellera lessertii* (Wikstr.) Van Tiegh. Этот небольшой кустарник с рода *Thymelaeaceae* является ирано-туранским видом. Центральная часть его ареала находится в Иране, а кроме того он растет в Ираке, Сирии, Туркмении, Афганистане и Пакистане. Этот вид заселяет полупустынные и пустынные районы. В своем вертикальном размещении он встречается: в Иране на высотах от 100 до 3000 м, в Афганистане между 700-2000 м. Самые низкие местонахождения отмечены в Ираке, где встречается этот вид на высоте ниже 100 м над ур. моря.