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SILENE MANISSADJIANI FREYN (CARYOPHYLLACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FOR THE FLORA OF CAUCASIA

New for the flora of the Caucasus species *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn has been found in the collections ERE from Yerevan and Darelegis floristic regions of Armenia, as well as from Nakhichevan.

Ներսեսյան Ա. Ա. *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn (Caryophyllaceae) նոր տեսակ Կովկասի ֆլորայի համար: ERE հավաքներում Հայաստանի Երևանի և Դարեղիսի ֆլորիստիկ շրջաններից, ինչպես նաև Նախիջևանից, հայտնաբերված է Կովկասի ֆլորայի համար նոր տեսակ՝ *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn:

Нерсесян А. А. *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn (Caryophyllaceae) – новый вид для флоры Кавказа. Среди сборов в ERE из Ереванского и Дарелегисского флористических районов Армении, а также из Нахичевана обнаружен новый для флоры Кавказа вид *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn.

Silene manissadjiani Freyn, a new species for the Caucasus, has been found among undetermined herbarium material, kept in ERE, among some old collections of ERE with a wrong determination as *S. ruprechtii* Schischk., as well as in our recent collections. The specimens were collected in Yerevan and Darelegis floristic regions of Armenia, and in Nakhichevan.

The specimens have been determined as *S. manissadjiani* after investigation of literature sources and type material in

the herbaria LE and G (Fig. 1). Characteristic features of the species are: thickened caudal branches covered with rigid, imbricate, squarrose remnants of dead leaves; clammy upper parts of stem and branches; rather fleshy, semi-coriaceous, fragile, slightly spatulate stem leaves, suddenly decreasing towards the stem apex; ring at the calyx base; almost up to the base dissected petal limb; absence of coronal scales and glabrate filaments (Fig. 2–5, page 53).

S. manissadjiani was described by J. Freyn in 1895 from northern Anatolia: "Pontus Galaticus, Amasia, in pascuis montis Akdagh, d.10 Sept.1892 leg. Manissadjian, exs. 942" (holo. BRNM?, iso. G!, K, LE!). It was considered an endemic species of N. Anatolia (Coode, Cullen, 1967).

The species is close to *S. shahrudensis* Rech. f., described in 1951 from Central Iran ("Shahrud, on dry mountain slopes, in clumps, plant viscid, flower yellow, 26.09. 1940, Koelz 16943", holo. W, iso. US). According to the protologue *S. shahrudensis* differs by up to 1/3 bipartite petal limb and by sparsely scabrous stamens. However, petal limb is evidently dissected up to the base on the flower preparation from the specimen "inter Karaj et Gach Sar, 1350 m, Davis 806-K", determined as *S. shahrudensis* in Flora Iranica (Melzheimer, 1988, Tab. 454, 11). There is a necessity to investigate the type material and Iranian collections of *S. shahrudensis* in order to clarify relationships with *S. manissadjiani*.

Acknowledgements

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Specimina visa

Silene manissadjiani Freyn 1895, Bull. Herb. Boiss. 3: 83: **Anatolia:** Pontus Galaticus, Amasia, in pascuis montis Akdagh, d.10 Sept.1892 leg. Manissadjian, exs. 942, iso. G!, LE!; **Armenia:** Ararat region, Khosrov reseve, road to Manguk, E. Gabrielyan, 25.09.1996, ERE 169862; Vedi region, 17 km from Arazdajan towards Chanakhchi, Urts mountain ridge, South-East slope, frigid vegetation, 02.09.1959, J. Mulkijanyan, ERE 66409, 66410; Eghegnadzor region, gorge of Ajar river, 20.09.1974, A. Takhtajan, ERE 122171; Eghegnadzor region, near v. Areni, rocks, 14.10.1982, M. Oganessian, ERE126106, 126107; Vayots Dzor district, between Areni and Khachik villages, 21.09.2008, A. Nersesyan, ERE 170864–170866. **Azerbaijan:** Nakhichevan, near v. Sadarak, 2.10.1968, A. Barsegyan, E. Gabrielyan, V. Avetisyan, ERE 108578.

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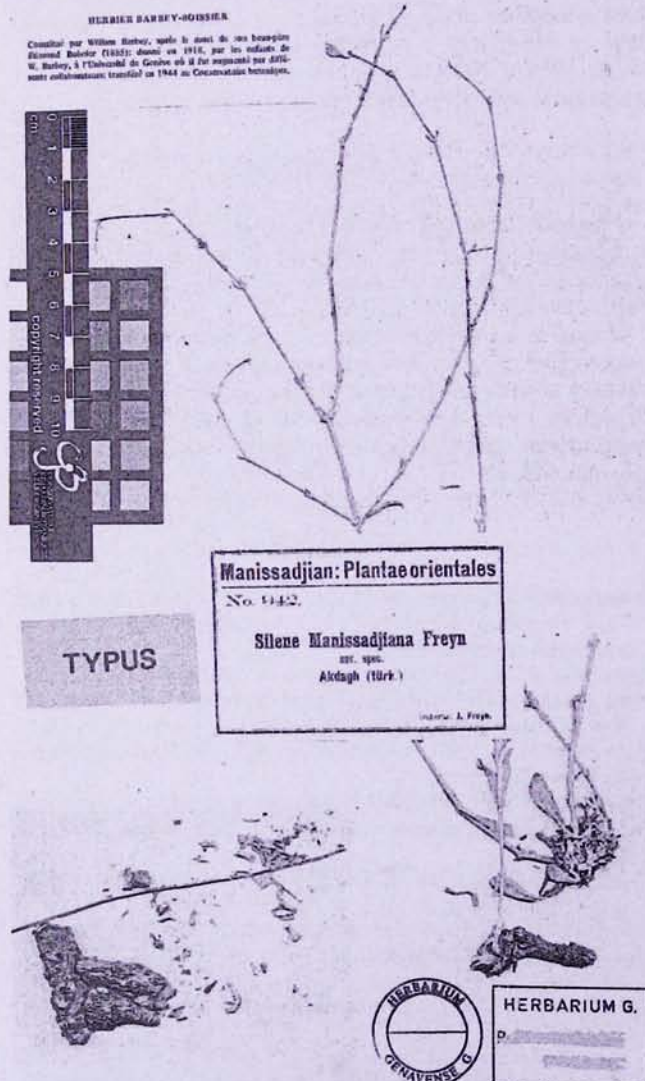


Fig. 1. Isotype of *Silene manissadjiani* Freyn (G).