

A NEW SPECIES OF *ECHINOPS* L., (SECT. *OLIGOLEPIS* BUNGE) FROM IRAN

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Abstract

Echinops taftanicus is described as a new species from Southeast of Iran.

Echinops taftanicus Mozaffarian & Ghahreman sp. nov.,

Fig. 1.

Sect. *Oligolepis* Bunge

Holotypus: Iran; Baluchistan, Khash, Tamandan valleys from Gushe, 1950 m, 7.11.1999
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Planta perennis, 40-60 cm alta. Caulis solitarius, glabrus, dense foliatus, infra glomerulus pubescens, viridi-brunneus, supra medium pauciramulus. Folia omnia herbaceo-coriacea, supra primum glabrescentia vel laxe glandulifera, flavescenti-viridia, demum secus nervos appresse albo-araneosa quasi marmorata, subtus albo-araneoso-villosa, secus nervos glabrescentia vel laxe araneosa; folia basalia mox decidua, probabliter infra caulina similia; folia caulina inferiora 20 cm longa, 10 cm lata, ambito oblongo-lanceolata, e basi plurispinosa, bipinnatifida, rachidibus anguste alatis, flavescentibus; segmentis utrinque 5-6 remotis anguste lanceolatis, longe spinosis, spinis flavescentibus, in spinam terminalem longissimam 20-35 mm excurrentibus, inter segmenta ± spinifera; folia ramealia sessilia, ambito anguste lanceolata, in laciniis remotas utrinque ± 2-3 triangulari-lanceolatas, in spinam terminalem usque ad 15 mm longam flavidam excurrentes; folia ramealia superiora mox reducta, infera glomerulus nudus. Glomerulus cornigerus, absque cornua 4-5 cm diametro; e capitulis inferioribus glabris non cornigeris et capitulis superioribus glabris et cornigeris compositis; receptaculum obconicum, cicatricibus albis elevatis; involucrem commune ± 10-16 mm longum, e phyllis membranaceis filiformibus, inferne non vel fimbriato- pectinatis, apice obtriangulis spinosis vel ciliatis in spinam longe vel breve excurrentibus compositum. Capitula inferiora ± usque ad 24 mm longa; penicillus candidus, usque ad 18 mm longus, penicillis interioribus e basi dilatatis, fimbriato-pectinatis; phylla 14-15, glabra, pallida; exteriora longe linearia, tenuiter membranacea, apice sensim elliptica vel triangularo-dilatata, apiculata; phylla intermedia anguste lanceolato-elliptica, in spinam terminalem abbreviatam aut longam attenuata; phylla intima e basi ± caudata, ultra medium in tubum crasse coriaceum albo-striatis atrobrunneum pentagonum concreta, parte libera lanceolata inaequilonga. Capitula superiora cornigera, usque ad 3.5-4.5 cm longa, e phyllis glabris et penicillis abbreviatis 4-5 mm longis composita. Corolla alba vel pallide flava, 18 mm longa, laciniis 10 mm longis.

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Fig. 1. *Echinops taftanicus*. A. Habit x1; B. Phyllaries x3.

Perennial, up to 40-60 cm high. Stem solitary, glabrous, densely leafy, in lower part of heads pubescent, greenish-brown, above the middle with a few branches. All leaves herbaceous-leathery, first glabrous or loosely glandulifer, yellowish-green above, later along the nerves with appressed white arachnoid hairs, nearly white marbled, white arachnoid-villose below, along the nerves becoming glabrous or loosely arachnoid; basal leaves soon deciduous, probably very similar to the lower cauline leaves; lower cauline leaves 20×10 cm, oblong-lanceolate in outline, with many spines at the base, bipinnatifid, rhachis narrowly winged, becoming yellow, with 5-6 pairs of larger narrowly lanceolate distant segments, with long yellowish spines, with a very long up to 20-35 mm terminal spine, leaves of branches sessile, narrowly linear in outline, with ± 2-3 pairs of triangular - lanceolate loose lacinia, with up to 15 mm long yellow terminal spine; upper leaves on the branches much more reduced, below the heads naked. Heads cornigerous, without horns up to 4-5 cm in diameter; receptacle obconical, with raised white scars; common involucre up to 10-16 mm long, consisting of membranaceous filiform bracts, non or fringed-pectinate below, with obtriangular spiny or ciliated tip and long or short terminal spines. Lower capitulum of a head up to ± 24 mm long; brush whitish-grey, up to 18 mm long, inner ones broadened at base, fringed - pectinate; phyllaries 14-15, glabrous, pale; outer long narrow linear, finely membranaceous, towards the tip elliptic or broadly triangular, apiculate; median narrowly lanceolate-elliptic, with short or long terminal spine; 5 innermost ± caudate at base, connate to above the middle in thick leathery white striate and dark brown five angled tube, with unequal lanceolate free parts. Upper capitulum of a head cornigerous up to 35-45 mm long, with glabrous and 2 long horny bracts, with very short brush, up to 4-5 mm. Corolla white or pale yellow, up to 18 mm long, with 10 mm long lacinia.

General distribution: Presently known only from the type locality.

Diagnosis: The new species with of more divided leaves, glabrous stem, just with short indumentum below the heads and white flowers is very characteristic. By having cornigerous heads and glabrous phyllaries in lower and upper capitulum of a head it resembles *E. leiopolyceras* Bornm., but differs from it in having glabrous stem at least in lower part (not araneose and densely glandulose setose) and marbled arachnoid hairs along nerves in upper surface of leaves instead of loosely araneose and long glandulose setose hairs.

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