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Validating the combination *Centaurea benedicta* var. *kotschyi* (Compositae: Cynareae)

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Summary. A new combination, *Centaurea benedicta* var. *kotschyi*, invalidly published in *Flora of Iraq* Volume 6, is here validated.

Key Words. Asteraceae, Iraq, new combination, nomenclature.

Introduction

In Volume 6 of the *Flora of Iraq* (Compositae), published in December 2019, it was pointed out to me by member of the IPNI team that the new combination *Centaurea benedicta* (L.) L. var. *kotschyi* (Sch.Bip.) Ghaz. was not validly published. This is rectified in this communication.

Centaurea benedicta (L.) L. var. *kotschyi* (Boiss.) Ghaz. was published as a new combination ('comb. et stat. nov.') (Ghazanfar in Wagenitz 2019) based on Boissier's variety *kotschyi* of *Cnicus benedictus* L. (Boissier 1875: 705 – 706). This combination was invalid, contrary to Art. 6.10. ICN (Turland *et al.* 2018), as the name *Cnicus kotschyi* Sch.Bip. was published in *Index Seminum* [Berlin]: 24 (Schultz Bipontinus 1857) and is therefore the basionym for this combination. In this publication in *Emendanda* on page 24 the name *Cnicus kotschyi* Sch.Bip. is erroneously recorded as published earlier by Schultz Bipontinus in Hohenacker (ed.) on plants of Aleppo, Kurdistan & Mossul collected by Carl (Karl) Georg Theodor Kotschy in 1841 (Hohenacker 1843: no. 29). On searching through this publication, I have not found *Cnicus kotschyi* Sch.Bip. mentioned.

Based on Carl (Karl) Heinrich Schultz 'Bipontinus's publication, the new combination for *Centaurea benedicta* var. *kotschyi* and its synonymy is as follows:

Centaurea benedicta (*L.*) *L.* var. **kotschyi** (*Sch.Bip.*) *Ghaz.* **comb. et stat. nov.**

http://www.ipni.org/urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77204631-1

Basionym: *Cnicus kotschyi* Sch.Bip., *Index Seminum [Berlin]* (Schultz Bipontinus 1857: 24).

Cnicus benedictus L. var. *kotschyi* (Sch.Bip.) Boiss., *Fl. Orient.* [Boissier] (1875: 706).

Centaurea benedicta var. *kotschyi* (Boiss.) Ghaz. (Ghazanfar in Wagenitz 2019: 142), **nom. inval.**

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