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Hesperis podocarpa Boissier emend. Dvořák

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1. Introduction

The species *Hesperis podocarpa* Boissier 1842: 65 ac 1867: 236 has been so far questionable. As Boissier 1867: 236 himself quotes, it was described "ex unico specimine" from an unknown place in Syria: "Hab. in Syriâ loco non notato ..." Fournier 1866: 341 listed the locality: "Crescit in Syria ... ad Aïnlab ..." Boissier later considers the name *Hesperis podocarpa* to be the synonym of the species *Hesperis persica*. He inferred: "... forsan specimen Aucherianum e Persiâ nec e Syriâ oriundum est" (Boissier 1888: 46). Post & Dinsmore 1932: 77 mentioned among the species of the genus *Hesperis*, growing in Syria, also the species *Hesperis podocarpa*: "... Reported by Auch. in Boiss. from an unknown place in Syria." Bouloumoy 1930: 26 reported the following locality of the species *Hesperis podocarpa:* "Audessus de Zahlé (Liban)".

2. Specimens

I have so far investigated three specimens of the species *Hesperis podocarpa:*

(1.) G (two labels): "*Hesperis podocarpa* Boiss. Ann. Sci. 1842 pag. 65. No. 125 Aucher-Eloy 1837". "125 *Hesp. laevigata* Sp. ?Poiret".

(2.) 172179/1889 W: "*Hesperis affinis pendulae* DC. an sp. nov. Aïnlab Syria 1837". Orient herb. Montbret.

(3.) P (two labels): "125 (1999) *Hesperis laevigata* sp. nova Aïnlab 1833". "*Hesperis podocarpa* Boiss. Syrie. Environs d'Aïnlab. Asie occidentale. M. Aucher-Eloy 1837."

We don't read the name of the country (Syria) on the specimen kept in G, although Boissier 1867 mentioned it.

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3. Distinguishing features between *Hesperis podocarpa* and *Hesperis persica*

On the herbarium sheet G (1) and P (3) a confusion of the plant specimens occured. From the four plants (1) the two left ones and that at the right-hand side belong to the species *Hesperis persica* Boissier 1842: 64 ac 1867: 236. Only the third plant from the left margin belongs to the species *Hesperis podocarpa*. I determine it as a lectotype of this species.

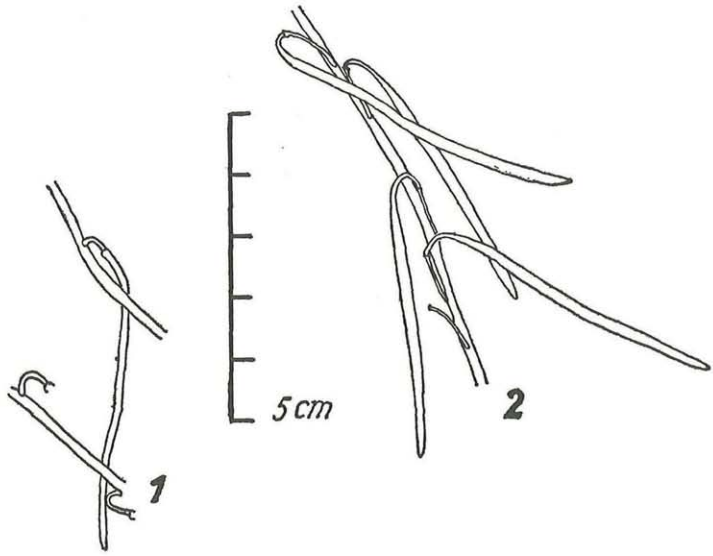


Fig. 1. The pedicels and siliquae of the species *Hesperis persica* on the sheet with the lectotype of the species *Hesperis podocarpa*.
Fig. 2. The pedicels and siliquae of the lectotype of *Hesperis podocarpa*. — Figures designed according to a photograph by Dvořák.

The specimen kept in W (2) is an isotype of the species *Hesperis podocarpa*.

From the two plants (3) belongs only one to the species *Hesperis podocarpa*. The second one is *Hesperis persica*.

Boissier's 1842 and 1867 descriptions of *Hesperis podocarpa* are made both by the species *Hesperis persica* and by the species *Hesperis podocarpa*. Post & Dinsmore 1932 takes over Boissier's description. Bouloumoy 1930 leaves out from Boissier's description the part referring to the flowers, which incontestably applies to *Hesperis persica*.

Hesperis podocarpa differs from *Hesperis persica* by two important features with the genus *Hesperis* (Fig. 1 and 2):

a) by the pedicels;
b) by the shape of the siliquae.

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The pedicels of the ripe siliquae of the species *Hesperis persica* (Fig. 1) are bent down in a bow-shaped manner from the base, are rather grown thick, 5—6 mm long. The pedicels of the ripe siliquae of the species *Hesperis podocarpa* (Fig. 2) are predominantly tight straight, joint to the stem and only at the top a little turned in a bow-shaped manner, thin, (8)—9—(10) mm long.

Hesperis persica has siliquae even at the base nearly as thick as along the whole longer part. The siliquae of the species *Hesperis podocarpa* are narrowed at the base a total length of ± 1 cm, the length of the first half cm being as thick as the pedicels.

The flowering season of the both species is probably different too.

4. *Hesperis podocarpa* Boiss. emend. Dvořák h. l.

As Boissier's 1842 description of *Hesperis podocarpa* was made according to the plants belonging to two species I consider it necessary to describe anew this species and carry out by it an emendation of Boissier's description.

Planta perennis. Radix palari-ramosa, sublignosa, basi foliorum emarcidorum fibriatorumque annorum praeteritorum tecta. Caulis erectus, simplex seu in parte superiore ramosus, 30—40 cm altus, basi pilis simplicibus albis, 1,5—2,0 mm longis, reflexis ac pilis uniserialibus glanduliferis adpressis copiosis tectus; caulis apice aequalibus pilis tectus, solum pili simplices longiores rariores sunt. Folia caulina inferiora lyrata; folia caulina media superioraque anguste obovata, basi contracta sessilia, apice acuto, margine dentata (folia media circa 4 cm longa et 0,5 cm lata); folia omnia pilis simplicibus eglanduliferis 0,5—1,0 mm longis ac pilis uniserialibus glanduliferis adpressis disperse tecta. Racemi simplices. Flores adhuc non vidi. Siliquarum maturarum pedicelli (8)—9—(10) mm longi, tenues, solum apice minime crassiores, stricti et solum apice minime deorsum reflexi, disperse pilis simplicibus bifurcatisque eglanduliferis paulo longioribus ac pilis uniserialibus glanduliferis adpressis tecti; ad pedicellorum basim utrinque glandulae parvae ovoideae. Siliquae nitidae, reflexae, basi (± 1 cm) attenuata et per 0,5 cm longitudinem sic ut in pedicellis crassa, apice paulo attenuato stigmateque obscure bilamellato terminato, glabrae, valvis indehiscentibus, nervo medio paulo prominulo, (4,8)—5,8—(7,2) cm longae. Semina fusca, cylindrica, ca. 3 mm longa et 1 mm lata.

Affinitas: *Hesperis podocarpa Hesperidi persicae* Boissier 1842: 64 ac 1867: 236 proxima est. Ab hac pedicellorum siliquarumque forma atque area geographica differt.

5. Summary

Hesperis podocarpa Boiss. emend. Dvořák is an independent species well distinguishable by important morphological features from the species *Hesperis persica*. The revision of the genus *Hesperis*, made so far, did not

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prove that *Hesperis persica* grows in Syria. The plants of the species *Hesperis persica* on the sheet from G (1) and P (3) do not come, therefore, from Syria. I consider the species *Hesperis podocarpa* to be endemic in Syria. It seems to be related also to the species *Hesperis aintabica* Post 1888: 420.

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