

## *Inula persica* (Asteraceae: Inuleae), a new species from Kerman province, Iran

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*Inula persica* F. Ghahremani. & Narimisa *sp. nova* (Asteraceae: Inuleae) from Kerman province in central Iran is described and illustrated. The species appears to be closely related to *I. acuminata*, with which it is compared.

In this paper a new species of the genus *Inula* (Asteraceae: Inuleae) is described from Iran. The genus comprises nearly 90 species, distributed in temperate and warm areas of the Old World (Mabberley 1997). In Iran there occur 14 species (Rechinger 1980).

### *Inula persica* F. Ghahremani. & Narimisa *sp. nova* (Fig. 1)

*Inula persica ex affinitate I. acuminatae sed achenia 0.5–1 mm longa (nec 1–1.5 mm), pappus 2.5–3 mm longus (nec 5–6 mm), flosculi tubulosi 2.5–3.5 longi (nec 6 mm), achenia dense pilosa (nec sparse pilosa vel glabra), folia basalia usque ad 0.9 cm lata (nec 1–1.5 cm lata).*

HOLOTYPE: Iran. Kerman province: Kerman, Bardsir, near Lalezar village, 2500 m, 6.VII.1982 *Sabahi & Heravi* 745 (TARI).

Perennial herbs, 22–31 cm tall. Stems erect, green to red, ribbed, glabrous in lower part, densely covered with hairs in upper part. Leaves

lanceolate, entire, acute, densely covered with long hairs (uniseriate, multicellular, up to 1 mm long), glandular; lower ones 4–7 cm long, 0.4–0.9 cm wide, attenuate toward base, petiolate, sometimes in rosette; upper ones 1.4–2.0 cm long, 0.4–0.5 cm wide, semiamplexicaul, sessile. Capitula 1–2, 1.2–1.7 cm in diameter. Involucre semiglobose. Phyllaries 4–5 seriate, glandular; outer ones leaf-like, lanceolate, green, 5–6 mm long, 1 mm wide, covered with long hairs; inner ones membranous, linear-lanceolate, usually reddish in upper part, ca. 5 mm long, ca. 0.5 mm wide, ciliate, sparsely hairy. Ray florets yellow, 4.5–6.5 mm long; tube 0.5–1.5 mm long; ligules 4–5 mm long, limb 1–1.5 mm wide, covered with glands in upper part. Disc florets hermaphroditic, tubular, 5-lobed, 2.5–3.5 mm long, covered with glands in upper part. Pistil 2.5–3.5 mm long, stigma 0.5–0.8 mm long. Anthers 1.8 mm long; filament 1.5 mm long. Achenes cylindrical, 0.5–1 mm long, densely hirsute. Pappus uniseriate, with 18–21 bristles, 2.5–3 mm long, pale yellow, free at base. Flowering and fruiting in July–August.

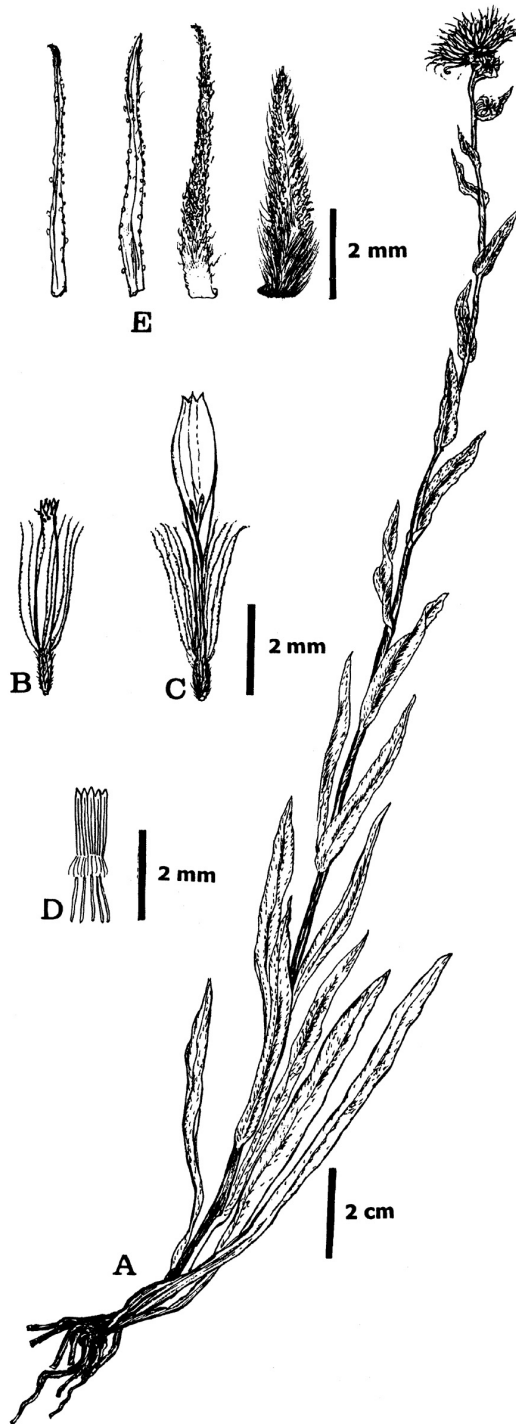


Fig. 1. *Inula persica* (from holotype). — A: Habit. — B: Tubular floret. — C: Ligular floret. — D: Stamens. — E: Phyllaries.



Fig. 2. Distribution map of *Inula persica*.

*Inula persica* is endemic to Iran and known only from the type specimens, which were collected in two mountainous areas of Kerman province in central Iran (Fig. 2).

*Inula persica* is closely similar to *I. acuminata*, a species distributed in W Himalayas, Pakistan and Kashmir (Qaiser & Abid 2003). The morphological differences between the two species are presented in Table 1.

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN EXAMINED (paratype). — Iran. Kerman province: Kerman, N E Baft, Kuh-e Shah, 2200–2750 m, 27.VIII.1975 Dini & Bazargan 30693 (TARI).

Table 1. Morphological comparison of *Inula persica* and *I. acuminata*.

	<i>I. persica</i>	<i>I. acuminata</i>
Tall	22–31 cm	(20)30–60 cm
Width of basal leaves	0.4–0.9 cm	1–1.5 cm
Capitulum diameter	1.2–1.7 cm	1.5–2.5 cm
Ligular floret length	4.5–6.5 mm	10–15 mm
Tubular floret length	2.5–3.5 mm	ca. 6 mm
Achene length	0.5–1 mm	1–1.5 mm
Achene indumentum	Densely hirsute	Sparsely hirsute to glabrous
Pappus length	2.5–3 mm	5–6 mm

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