



## *Rhaponticoides gokceoglui* (Asteraceae), a striking new species from Turkey

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### Abstract

*Rhaponticoides gokceoglui* is described as a species new to science. Its affinities within the genus are discussed. The new species is closely related to *R. wagenitziana* and *R. aytachii* from which we delimit it. *Rhaponticoides gokceoglui* is readily distinguished from those species by its entirely leafy stem, lacking a distinct appendage on phyllaries, ovate outer and ovate-oblong to oblong middle phyllaries with a very narrow scarious margin, and inner phyllaries cucullate at apex only. Habitat conditions and conservation status of *R. gokceoglui* are considered. Finally, a distribution map and a key to the pinkish-flowered species of *Rhaponticoides* in Turkey are provided.

**Key words:** Antalya, Compositae, taxonomy

### Introduction

The genus *Rhaponticoides* Vaillant (1754: 165) was recently split from *Centaurea* Linnaeus (1753: 909). It occurs from Portugal and Morocco in the west to Mongolia in the east (Agababian 1997, Greuter 2003, Hellwig 2004, Greuter *et al.* 2005, Garcia-Jacas *et al.* 2006). If we exclude *R. ruthenica* (Lamarck 1785: 663) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 61) which occurs over large areas, most of the representatives of the genus are narrow endemics (Wagenitz 1975, 1986, Eren 2007, Puntillo & Peruzzi 2009, Tan *et al.* 2009, Doğu *et al.* 2009). In addition, there are only a few species such as *R. wagenitziana* (Bancheva & Kit Tan 2009: 52) Agababian & Greuter in Greuter & Raus (2009: 337) which display disjunct distributions.

Recently, six species of *Rhaponticoides* were recognised in Turkey (Eren 2007). Eren provided the first key, as well as a distribution map of all Turkish representatives of the genus. Since that publication, *R. aytachii* Bağcı, Doğu & Dinç in Doğu *et al.* (2009: 479) and *R. wagenitziana* were described (Tan *et al.* 2009, Greuter & Raus 2009). The latter is described as a species new to science on the basis of plants collected in Bulgaria and Turkey, both formerly identified as *R. amplifolia* (Boissier & Heldreich in Boissier 1856: 68) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 60) in standard Floras of those countries and subsequent publications. This statement was no longer supported by Tan *et al.* (2009) who recognized the Turkish and Bulgarian populations as a distinct species. As indicated by Tan *et al.* (2009), *R. amplifolia* became endemic to the Peloponnese in southern Greece.

In early July 2010 a very striking species of *Rhaponticoides*, distinct from any other Turkish member of this genus, was collected in Suçikan mevki, above Başlar village that belongs to İbradı district in the province of Antalya. The few plants gathered in early July 2010 were complemented by collections conducted in June and July 2011 from the same site. The population of *Rhaponticoides* from the Suçikan mevki turned out to represent a hitherto unknown species related to *R. wagenitziana* and *R. aytachii*. Hence, this species is described here as new to science, bringing a total number of the species of *Rhaponticoides* known from Turkey to eight. Seven of those species, namely, *R. gokceoglui* sp. nov., *R. aytachii*, *R. amasiensis* (Bornmüller 1906: 54) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 60), *R. pythiae* (Aznavour & Bornmüller in Bornmüller 1927: 48) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 61), *R. iconiensis* (Huber-Morath 1981: 77) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 60), *R. mykalea* (Huber-Morath 1979: 370) Agababian & Greuter (2003: 60), and *R. hierroi* Eren (2007: 15) are endemic to Turkey. *Rhaponticoides wagenitziana* is the only species which occurs both in Turkey and Bulgaria. The genus *Rhaponticoides* exhibits a high level of endemism in Turkey.

2. Terminal segments of basal leaves broadly ovate; stem arachnoid below; all phyllaries or at least the middle and inner ones distinctly cucullate ..... *Rhaponticoides aytachii*  
 – Terminal segments of basal leaves elliptic-lanceolate; stem puberulent below; phyllaries not cucullate.....  
 ..... *Rhaponticoides wagenitziana*

## Specimens examined

*Rhaponticoides amplifolia*:—GREECE. In montibus Killeus faucibus Phlamburtya, *T. Orphanides G 129* (E00394662, E00394663, type, photos!).

*Rhaponticoides aytachii*:—TURKEY. C4 Karaman: Sariveliler, Dumlugöze köyü, bozulmuş *Quercus* ormanı, açıklıklar, 1000–1050 m, 20 June 2007, *S. Doğu 1398, Bağcı & Dinç* (GAZI, isotype).

*Rhaponticoides wagenitziana*:—BULGARIA. Toundzha Hills, Municipality of Elhovo, north of the village of Golyam Dervent, 42°01'18.1" N, 26°43'00.0" E, 348 m, 26 July 2006, *S. Bancheva & S. Stoyanov SB-07-06* (GAZI, isotype). TURKEY. A2 İstanbul: Aydos hill, on the slopes, 02 July 1974, *Tuzlaci E 30115* (E00199159, E00474023, photos!).

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