**Bituminaria kyreniae** (Fabaceae), a new species from Northern Cyprus

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**Abstract**

*Bituminaria kyreniae* is described and illustrated as a new species to science from northern Cyprus. It is an obligate chasmophyte growing on the south-facing carbonatic cliffs of Kyrenia range. Diagnostic morphological features, micro-morphology of pod and seed testa, ecology, conservation status, and chorology of the new species are provided. Besides, its relationships with the currently recognized species belonging to the genus *Bituminaria* are also examined.

**Key words:** chasmophyte, endemic flora, fodder grass, Mediterranean Basin, taxonomy

**Introduction**


In order to improve the knowledge of the genus at issue, the populations of *Bituminaria* occurring in Cyprus, eastern Mediterranean island located off the coast of southern Turkey, were collected and examined. According to Meikle (1977), this genus is represented in Cyprus by *B. bituminosa*, quoted by the author as *Asphaltium bituminosum* (Linnaeus) Fourreau (1868: 365), which is exclusive of the north-central sector of the island (corresponding to the division 7), where it grows on very arid carbonate rocky environments. During a field trip in northern Cyprus (July 2013), several specimens of this plant were collected, thus verifying that this plant behaves as an obligate chasmophyte exclusively growing on the crevices of the south-facing limestone cliffs. As a result of the taxonomical investigations carried out on the Cypriot populations, they differ very well from the other known species of *Bituminaria*, and