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ARMEN TAKHTAJAN AND THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA

Գրողներ Վ. Արմեն Թախտաճյանը և Միջերկրայր: Грэйтер В. Армен Тахтаджян и Средиземноморье.

Armen Takhtajan's old and close relations with the Mediterranean area and its plants are an aspect of his expertise that is often neglected, given the universal character of his interests and achievements. I first met Armen during the First International Symposium on Balkan Flora and Vegetation in Varna, Bulgaria, in June 1973 (Jordanov & al., 1975). I shall never forget (nor did he, during his lifetime) the hearty links then established. They were at the root of Armen's early involvement with OPTIMA (the Organisation for the Phyto-Taxonomic Investigation of the Mediterranean Area), founded the following year with Armen as a member of the first International Board. It is no coincidence that the invitation to hold the First OPTIMA Meeting (September 1975) in Crete was presented to the OPTIMA Board by a delegation of Greek botanists, and joyfully accepted, during the XII International Botanical Congress in Leningrad, of which Armen was President.



Armen, Nora with Lorna and Oleg Polunin in Bulgaria, 1973

To Varna, I had brought with me a one oka (c. 1.5 l) bottle of Macedonian tsipouro (a spirit resembling grappa), the strongest I could find in Thessaloniki, allegedly with 70 % alcohol content. This came in handy during the post-congress excursion when, arriving in Bakovo, we found the hotel bar and all taverns closed. We were a small group, including Armen, Hasse Runemark, and Jaakko Jalas, to kill that bottle during a night of high spirits, at the end of which Armen was admitted as an associate member of the arcane Aegean Academy of Sciences, on the grounds that, even if he had never botanised in the Aegean area, he had at least crossed it by boat, bound toward the Black Sea, and that he had successfully undergone all other mysterious admission trials. Armen later pretended that the tsipouro in question was the worst spirit he had tasted in his lifetime — but he said it with that marvellous, characteristic smile of his, shimmering from his eyes but appearing to have its roots far behind, deep in his profound and profoundly humorous Armenian soul.

LITERATURE

Jordanov D., Bondev I., Kožuharov S., Kuzmanov B., Palamarev E., Velev V. (ed.) 1975. Problems of Balkan flora and vegetation. Proceedings of the First International Symposium on Balkan Flora and Vegetation. Varna, June 7—14, 1973. Sofia.

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TWO NEW SPECIES OF AMBERBOA (ASTERACEAE, CARDUEAE) FROM CENTRAL ASIA

Two species of *Amberboa* (Pers.) Less. new to science are described and illustrated. *A. takhtajanii*, collected in Zaisanian salt steppe (m. Ashutas) in East Kazakhstan, is related to *A. turanica* Iljin, but differs by the shape and size of leaves, involucre and phyllaries. *A. gubanovii* was collected in East Kopetdag (Turkmenistan) and is related to *A. amberboi* (L.) Tzvelev, distinguishing though by the leaf shape, glabrous involucre, the shape and size of phyllaries and slightly radiant marginal flowers.

Asteraceae, Amberboa, taxonomy, new species, m. Ashutas, Kopetdag ridge

Փարսիեյան Է. Յ. Ամբերբոայի (Asteraceae, Cardueae) երկու նոր տեսակ Կենտրոնական Ասիայից: Նկարագրված է գիտության համար երկու նոր տեսակ *Amberboa* (Pers.) Less. ցեղից: *A. takhtajanii* տեսակը հավաքված է Արևելյան Ղազախստանի Ջայսանյան աղուտային փափաստանից (Աշուտասար), որը ազգակից է *A. turanica* Iljin տեսակին, սակայն փարբերվում է տերևների, փաթաթոցի և փաթաթոցի թերթերի ձևով և մեծությամբ: *A. gubanovii* տեսակը հավաքված է Արևելյան Կոպեթդաջից, որը ազգակից է *A. amberboi* (L.) Tzvelev տեսակին, սակայն փարբերվում է տերևների ձևով, մերկ փաթաթոցով, փաթաթոցի թերթերի ձևով և մեծությամբ, եզրային ծաղիկների կառուցվածքով:

Asteraceae, Amberboa, կարգաբանություն, նոր տեսակներ, Աշուտասար, Կոպեթդաջի լեռնաշղթա

Габриэлян Э. Ц. Два новых вида Амбербоа (Asteraceae, Cardueae) из Центральной Азии. Описано два новых для науки вида рода *Amberboa* (Pers.) Less. *A. takhtajanii* собран из Зайсанской степи на солончаках (г. Ашутас) в Восточном Казахстане и более или менее сближается с *A. turanica* Iljin, отличаясь формой и величиной листьев, обертки и листиков обертки. *A. gubanovii* собран в Восточном Копетдаге, близок *A. amberboi* (L.) Tzvelev, отличаясь формой листьев, голой оберткой, формой и размерами листиков обертки, а также едва увеличенными краевыми цветками.

Asteraceae, Amberboa, систематика, новые виды, гора Ашутас, хребет Копетдаг

Amberboa (Pers.) Less. is not a large genus, but from the point of view of taxonomy and nomenclature it is very complex. The species of this genus were placed in a vast genus *Centaurea* L. (Linnaeus, 1753: 909, Willdenow, 1803),

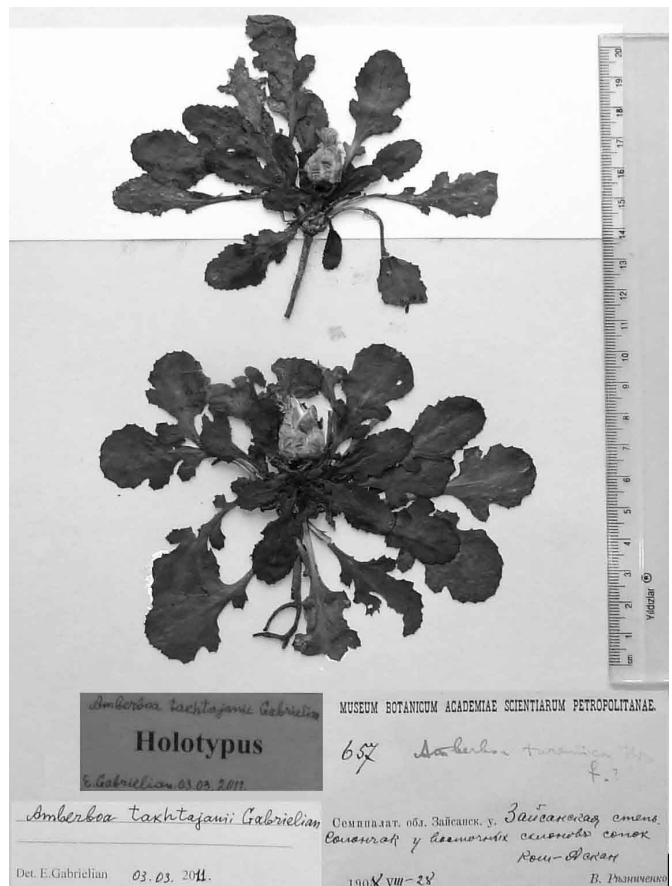


Fig. 1. Holotype of *Amberboa takhtajanii* (ERE).