

Rare species of *Anthemideae* Cass. (*Asteraceae*) of the Caucasus

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ABSTRACT: Eleven rare species of *Asteraceae* trib. *Anthemideae* Cass. have been found to occur in the Caucasus, some of them threatened or almost extinct. They belong to *Otanthus*, *Anacyclus*, *Artemisia* and *Tanacetum*, and are given short distributional notes.

KEYWORDS: *Asteraceae* trib. *Anthemideae*, Caucasus, rare species.

On the basis of study of ample herbarium material (LE, ERE, ERCB, TBI, TGM, BAK, MHA, MW, B, E), personal collections and observations during many years, the species composition of the tribe *Anthemideae* in the Caucasus has been specified. This tribus is represented by 9 genera in the Caucasian flora: *Anthemis* L., *Achillea* L., *Otanthus* Hoffmgg. et Link, *Anacyclus* L., *Matricaria* L., *Leucanthemum* Mill., *Tripleurospermum* Sch. Bip., *Tanacetum* L. and *Artemisia* L. Each of the genera *Leucanthemum*, *Anacyclus* and *Otanthus* has only one representative in the Caucasus. The remaining genera have 3-29 species (KHANDZHAYAN 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990a, 1990b, GABRIELIAN and KHANDZHAYAN 1986).

During taxonomic investigation, 11 rare species have been revealed, among which some are getting extinct, particularly *Otanthus maritimus* (L.) Hoffmgg. et Link and *Anacyclus ciliatus* Trautv. They occur in specific habitats in the Caucasus. *Otanthus maritimus* has a wide distribution in the Mediterranean region, while in the Caucasus it only

grows on seaside sands of Abkhazia (SOSNOVSKY 1952). *Anacyclus ciliatus* is an endemic of East Transcaucasia where it grows on the dry loamy slopes along the middle and upper stream of the Kura river (KHANDZHIAN 1986).

In the genus *Artemisia* there are two rare species: *A. araxina* Takht. and *A. daghestanica* Krasch. The endemic *A. araxina* occurs on dry stony slopes of the Darelighis floristic region of Armenia and the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, while *A. daghestanica* is endemic to Daghestan. The latter species grows on the southern mountain steppe slopes at the altitude of 1000 - 1900 m.

Genus *Tanacetum* involves the greatest number of rare species, viz. *T. akinfiievii* (Alex.) Tzvel., *T. kotschy* (Boiss.) Grierson, *T. marionii* (Albov) Khandzhyan, *T. peucedanifolium* (Sosn. ex Mand.) Khandzhyan, *T. tenuissimum* Trautv., *T. uniflorum* (Fisch. et C. A. Mey.) Sch. Bip., *T. zangezuricum* Khandzhyan. *T. akinfiievii*, which is included in the "Red Data Book of USSR" (BORODIN 1985), is an endemic of Daghestan where it grows on limestone rocks at 1000-2000 m. *T. kotschy* and *T. zangezuricum* are highly decorative alpine species. *T. kotschy* with single large white capitulum and palmatisect leaves occurs in the highlands of Eastern Turkey, Iran, South and East Transcaucasia and further to the East Caucasus (Daghestan) where it is encountered on Shakhdag mountain. *T. zangezuricum* is endemic to Armenia and grows on rocky slopes of the Zangezur mountain ridge. Its presence in Daghestan underlines ancient floristic links of Daghestan with Southern Transcaucasia. *T. marionii* is endemic to Abkhazia, grows on the limestone rocks and stony slopes at the height of 1500-2500 m. *T. peucedanifolium* grows in the basin of the upper Kuban river and at the sources of the Inguri river. It occurs on the pebbly river sediments and forest glades of the middle mountain belt. *T. tenuissimum* occurs on dry stony slopes of the lower mountain belt. The species is known from some sites in Nakhichevan. *T. uniflorum* with its large single yellow capitulum occurs on stony and rubbly slopes of the lower mountain belt of Darelighis floristic region of Armenia as well as in adjacent regions of the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

Thus 11 rare species of *Anthemideae* tribus grow in Caucasus. They have strictly defined high-altitude localities specific habitats. Many of them are peculiar endemics. Some of them clearly witness the ancient floristic links of the Caucasus with the Mediterranean region as well as those between Daghestan and South Transcaucasia.

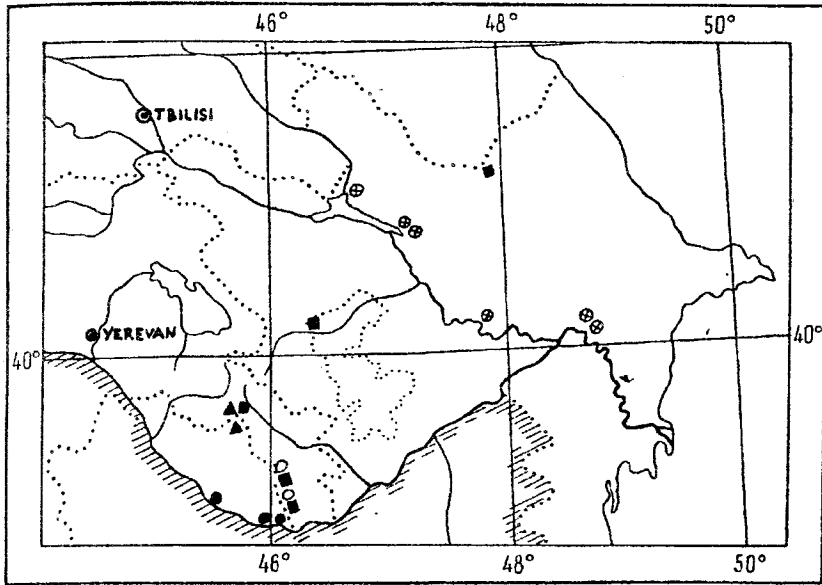


Fig 1. Distribution in Caucasus of *Anacyclus ciliatus* (☉), *Artemisia araxina* (▲), *Tanacetum zangezuricum* (⊖), *T. kotschy* (■) and *T. tenuissimum* (⊙).

Summary

On the basis of study of ample herbarium material (LE, ERE, ERCB, TBI, TGM, BAK, MHA, MW, B, E), personal collections and observations for many years the species composition of the tribe *Anthemideae* in the Caucasus has been specified. During taxonomic investigation 11 rare species have been revealed some of them being threatened or almost extinct. The following species were studied: *Oianthus maritimus* (L.) Hoffm. et Link, *Anacyclus ciliatus* Trautv., *Artemisia araxina* Takht., *A. daghestanica* Krasch., *Tanacetum akinfiavii*

(Alex.) Tzvel., *T. kotschyi* (Boiss.) Grierson, *T. marionii* (Albov) Khandzhyan, *T. peucedanifolium* (Sosn. ex Mand.) Khandzhyan, *T. tenuissimum* Trautv., *T. uniflorum* (Fisch. et C. A. Mey.) Sch. Bip. and *T. zangezuricum* Khandzhyan.

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