

A new species of *Silene* (Caryophyllaceae) from Anatolia (Turkey).

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AYTAÇ Z. (1998): A new species of *Silene* (Caryophyllaceae) from Anatolia (Turkey). – Thaiszia – J. Bot. 8: 7-11. – ISSN 1210-0420.

ABSTRACT: *Silene denizliense* AYTAÇ is described and illustrated as a new species (Caryophyllaceae) from Turkey.

KEYWORDS: taxonomy, *Silene*, Caryophyllaceae, Turkey

Introduction

Silene L. is one of the richest genera of the World's flora. It has c. 700 species, about half of which grow in the Mediterranean area. The South Balkan Peninsula and south-west Asia are two of the main centres of diversity of the genus (GREUTER 1995). *Silene* is one of the richest taxa in Turkey, having 131 species (147 taxa) (DAVIS 1967). After the publication of the Flora of Turkey Vol. 2, eleven new *Silene* species were described world-wide and two new species were recorded from Turkey (DAVIS 1988, ÖZHATAY 1995, DUMAN 1995). These publications demonstrate the richness of *Silene* in Turkey. The genus has some systematic problems and a revision of the Turkish taxa is required. I believe that after revision, some new taxa will be added and some taxa will become synonymous with each other.

When I went to Denizli to collect *Amphoricarpus praedictus* AYASLIGIL & GRIERSON seeds in August 1994, I collected some interesting specimens as well. One of the specimens belonged to the genus *Silene*. This specimen had only mature capsules and anthophores which were very interesting. It is impossible to describe this specimen just from its capsule. Therefore, I decided to collect it as

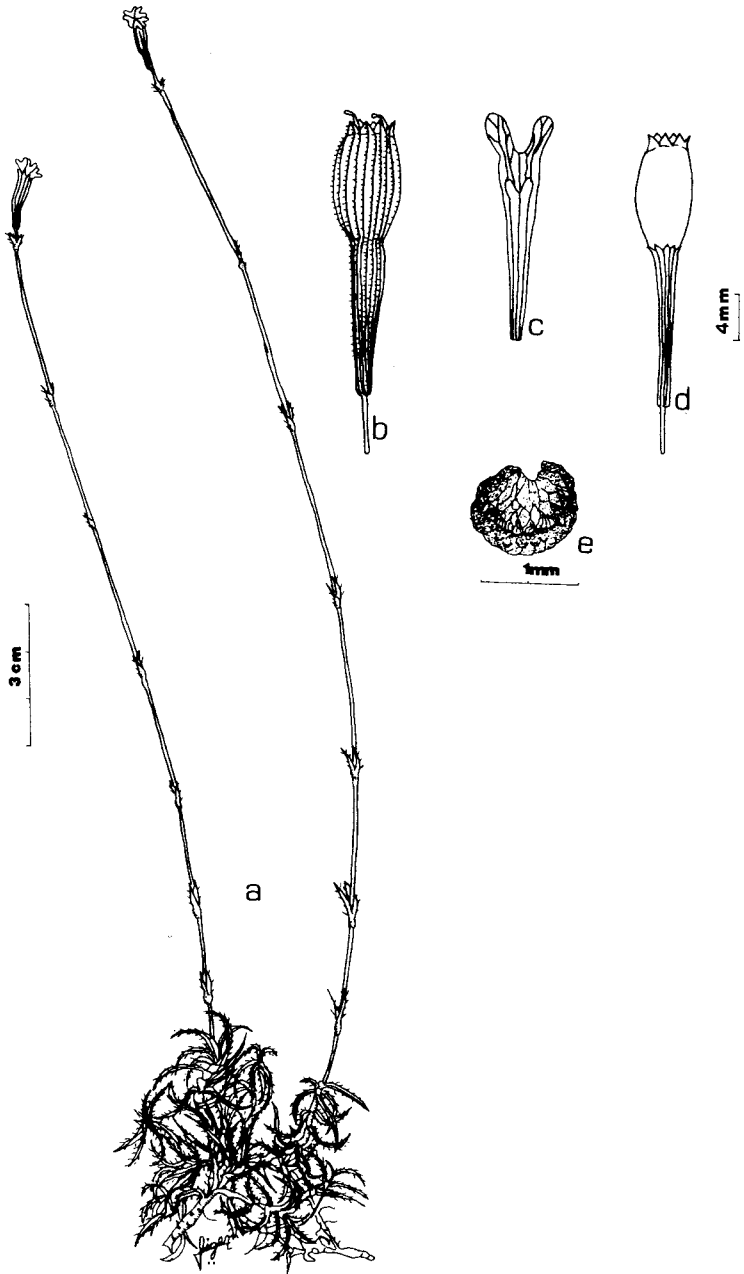


Fig. 1. *Silene denizliense* AYTAÇ. a: habitus, b: calyx, c: petal lobe, d: capsule and anthophore, e: seed.

Although the other subspecies of *S. lucida* (subsp. *glandulosa*) occurs close to *S. denizliense*, it differs in being glandular throughout the plant, while *S. denizliense* has a completely eglandular indumentum. On the other hand, the cauline leaves of the new species are similar in size to the basal leaves, whereas the cauline leaves of *S. lucida* are smaller than the basal leaves.

S. denizliense is close to *S. linioides* OTTH (= *S. linifolia* SIBTH. & SM.) Sect. *Saxifragoideae* WILK. which grows in north and central Greece, but the stem of the latter species is glabrous not pubescent at the below, not glabrous and viscid above, the petals are yellowish-green and brown at the apex, not pinkish above and purplish beneath, and the anthophore is glabrous, not densely villous.

The petals of the new *Silene* species are auriculate, suggesting an affinity with section *Auriculatae* Boiss., but some other characteristics suggest a closer affinity with section *Saxifragoideae* Wilk. I think this species represents a good link between these two sections.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Prof. Dr. TUNA EKIM for his interest and Dr. HAYRI DUMAN for the Latin diagnosis.

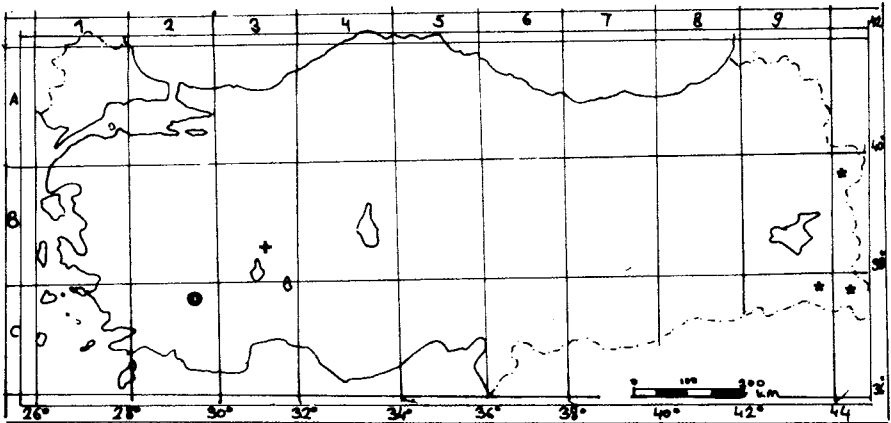


Fig. 2. Distribution of ● *Silene denizliense*; ★ *Silene lucida* subsp. *lucida*; + *Silene lucida* subsp. *glandulosa* in Turkey.

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Received: 7 October 1996
Revised: 3 December 1997
Accepted: 6 March 1998