

to 0.02 mm, covering the remainder of non-ribbed achene body; germination epigeous.

1a. *Tragopogon soltisorum* var. *soltisorum*

1b. *Tragopogon soltisorum* var. *latifolius* Mavrodiev, var. nov. TYPE: Russia. Astrachan Oblast: vic. of city of Astrachan, 15 May 2001 [type from seed cultivar, Univ. of Florida, Gainesville, Botany Greenhouse, 4 Aug. 2005], *Evgeny V. Mavrodiev* 2 (holotype, FLAS 215762; isotype, FLAS 215761).

A varietate typica foliis latioribus (usque ad 20 mm latis) et additione inflorescentia 2- ad 3-calathidiata differt.

The variety *latifolius* differs from the typical one by its wider leaf laminae (to 20 mm) and by its additional capitula to 2 or 3 in number (Fig. 2C).

Chromosome number. The chromosome number $2n = 24$ was found in the plants of both varieties (Fig. 2D, E).

Distribution and IUCN Red List category. *Tragopogon soltisorum* is known only from the Astrachan region (southeastern Russia). It was widely distributed in the vicinity of the city of Astrachan in 2001–2002. The new taxon and its new variety are considered mostly ruderal plants.

We estimate the current area of distribution of both varieties of the new tetraploid as 5000–20,000 km², and the number of localities as more than 10. All populations are fluctuating in size. Based on these facts, the species could be considered as Vulnerable (VU) according to IUCN Red List criteria (IUCN, 2001).

Phenology. In natural habitats, the new species flowers and fruits in April and May until the second half of October (A. Laktionov, pers. comm.). This is a longer anthesal time compared to other species of *Tragopogon* (including all sympatric species from the Astrachan region), which bloom and fruit from (April) May to August (September).

Etymology. The new polyploid species is named in honor of professors Douglas E. Soltis and Pamela S. Soltis.

Discussion. *Tragopogon soltisorum* is a highly variable taxon. The new species differs from most of *Tragopogon* (including all known polyploids) by the formation of adventitious shoots. In gross morphology, *T. soltisorum* appears similar to *T. graminifolius* DC. or *T. orientalis* L., but it differs from both in possessing violet stripes on the dorsal side of its ligules and by the adventitious shoots. Underground organs and the details of life history clearly require further investigation.

KEY TO *TRAGOPOGON SOLTISORUM* AND SIMILAR SPECIES

- 1a. Biennial; involucre bracts shorter than or \pm equal to ligules; the latter are golden yellow, without stripes *T. orientalis*
- 1b. Perennial; involucre bracts longer than or \pm equal to ligules; the latter are yellow or pale yellow, with or without stripes 2
- 2a. Ligules are yellow, without stripes; root buds and adventitious shoots are absent. *T. graminifolius*
- 2b. Ligules are pale yellow, with \pm obvious violet stripes on adaxial side; root buds and adventitious shoots are present *T. soltisorum*

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