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A new species of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis* from Greece

Abstract

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Centaurea cithaeronea, a yellow-flowered species from Mt. Kitheron on the Attiki-Viotia border in Central Greece is described; its somatic chromosome number is $2n = 54$.

The discovery of a new species of the genus *Centaurea* in Greece is not surprising since a large number of local endemics is already known within this genus (see e. g. Wagenitz 1971, Phitos & Damboldt 1976). However, finding yellow-flowered species of *C.* sect. *Phalolepis* is a rare event indeed. Within this section, which is rich in endemics in Greece, only three yellow- or yellow-whitish-flowered species were known until now, namely *Centaurea musarum* Boiss. & Orph. from Mt. Parnassos, *C. litochorea* Georgiadis & Phitos from Mt. Olimbos and *C. chrysocephala* Phitos & Georgiadis from Meteora.

Another species of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis*, *C. pseudocadmea* Wagenitz, was reported to occur on Mt. Kitheron; however, its most recent find dates back to 1930 (Wagenitz 1971). While searching in vain for this species the second author discovered the new species, which we describe here.

Centaurea cithaeronea Phitos & Constantinidis, **sp. nova** — Typus: [Greece] "Nomos Attikis/Viotias, Mt. Kitheron, W of an abandoned military camp, open, rocky, grazed ground, limestone, alt. 1290 m", 12.7.1992, *Constantinidis 2690* (holotypus: UPA; isotypus: B). — Fig. 1.

Perennis. Rhizoma lignosum, florendi tempore saepe rosulas steriles emittens. Caules floccoso-tomentosi, ascendentes vel erecti, 10-20 cm alti, simplices vel in parte media ramis 1-3 provisi. Folia omnia dense appresse albo-tomentosa; basalia petiolata, c. 4-7 cm longa, lyrato-pinnatifida, segmentis lateralibus utrinque 3-4, segmento terminali elliptico; folia caulina inferiora petiolata, basalibus similia sed minora; media sessilia, lyrato-pinnatipartita, segmentis lineari-lanceolatis utrinque 1-2; superiora sessilia, plerumque integra, lanceolata. Capitula solitaria; involucrum ovatum, 10-14 mm longum, 6-10 mm latum; ungues phyllorum in parte superiore sparse araneosi vel glabri, indistincte striati, appendicibus omnino obtecti; pars centralis appendicum triangularis vel ovoidea, brunnea, inferiorum in spinam terminalem capillaceam, brevissimam excurrens, superiorum plerumque absque spina; partes laterales decurrentes, hyalinae, albidae, margine minute

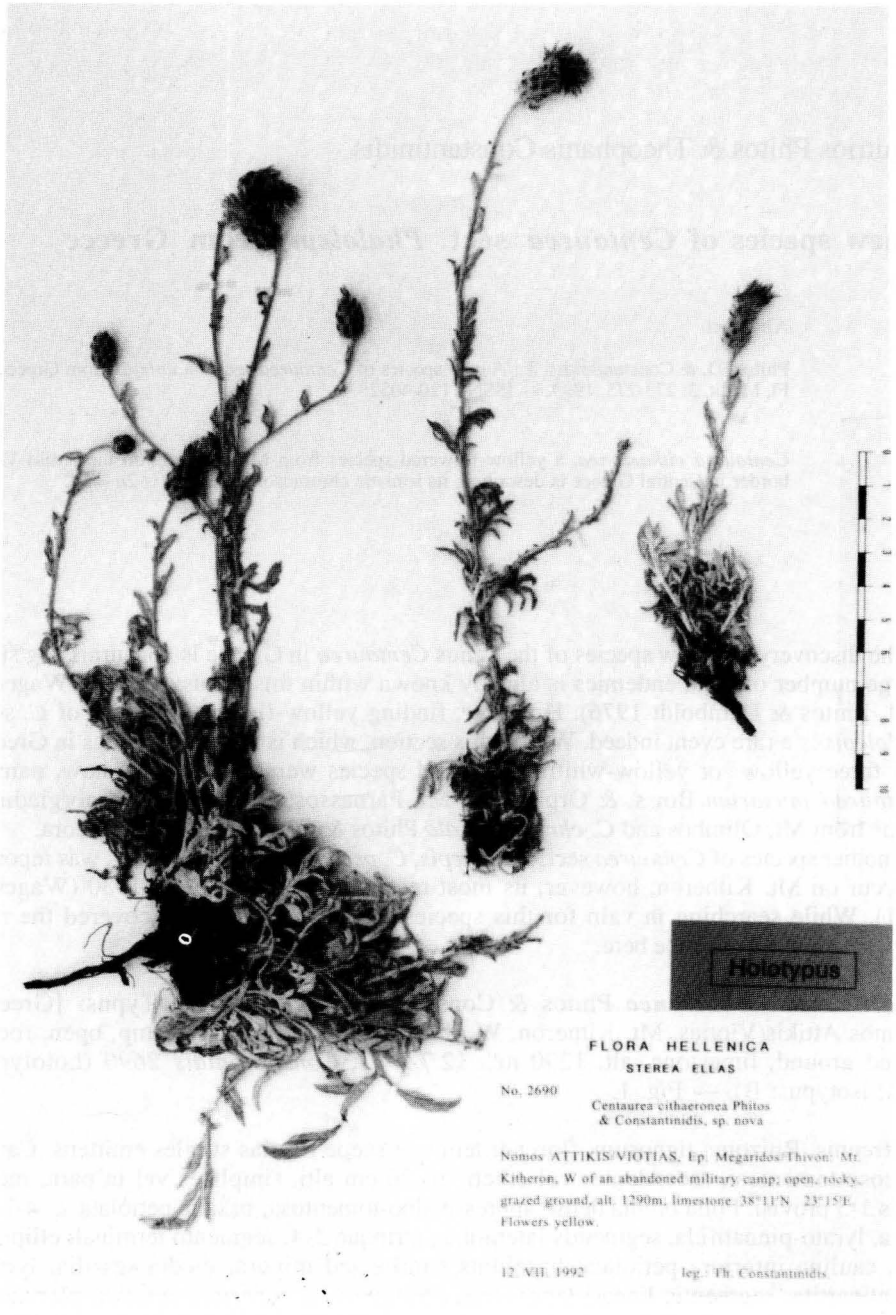

Fig. 1. *Centaurea cithaeronea* (Holotypus).

denticulatae. Flores citrini, marginales parum radiantes. Achenia glabra vel sparse arachnoidea, 5-5.5 mm longa; pappus duplex, 2.5-3.5 mm longus. Numerus chromosomatum: $2n$ -= 54.

A *Centaurea pseudocadmea* Wagenitz imprimis floribus citrinis et partibus lateralibus appendicum valde latioribus manifeste differt.

The chromosome number ($2n$ = 54) of this new species is most interesting. It is consistent with the basic chromosome number of *Centaurea* sect. *Phalolepis*, $x = 9$, but it is the first record of hexaploidy to occur within this group, at least in the Greek area.

References

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