

Centaurea musakii: a new species from Thessalia (Greece)

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Centaurea musakii Georg., sp. nov., is described from calcareous rocks in the provinces of Trikala and Karditsa, Thessalia, Greece. Its chromosome number is $2n=18$. It belongs to *Centaurea* subg. *Acrolophus* (Cass.) Dobrocz.

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Centaurea musakii Georg., sp. nov. – Fig. 1

Orig. coll.: Graecia, prov. Trikala, prope pagum Pili, in rupibus calcareis, alt. ca 200 m, 22-9-77 Georgiadis 1732 (UPA holotypus).

Biennis vel perennis, tota planta adpresse albotomentosa. *Caules* erecti, superne corymboso-pauciramosi 20–40 cm alti, plerumque usque ad inflorescentiam plurifoliati. *Folia* adpresse albotomentosa, basalia petiolata, bipinnatisecta, segmentis lanceolatis vel ovatis; caulina inferiora petiolata, bipinnatisecta, segmentis utrimque 4–6, superiora pinnatisecta, segmentis utrimque 1–2. *Capitula* solitaria, cylindricovata; involucrium 13–15 × 12–14 mm. *Ungues phyllorum* virides, sparse araneosi vel glabri, nervis 3–5 distincte striatis; appendices triangulares, nigrae, pectinato-ciliatae, ciliis utrimque 10–12, 3 mm longis, in spinam terminalem 1–1,5(–2) mm longam excurrentes. *Flores* rosei, marginales radiantis. *Pappus* 4(–5) mm longus, achaenio aequilongus vel longior.

Affinis *C. niederi* Heldr. et *C. wettsteinii* Deg. & Dörfel.; a prima segmentis foliorum angustioribus capitulis minoribus et appendicibus non oblongis sed triangularibus differt ab altera foliis majoribus segmentis manifeste angustioribus, caulibus robustioribus inter alia valde divergit.

This new species belongs to the subgenus

Acrolophus (Cass.) Dobrocz., sect. *Pannophyllum* Hayek. It grows on calcareous rocks at the foot of Mt Agrapha (Thessalia). It resembles *C. niederi* Heldr. from the cliffs of Klissoura near Mesolonghi and *C. wettsteinii* Degen & Dörfel., known from Macedonia in Yugoslavia. However, it differs from both these species in having longer and narrower leaves and smaller capitula. The appendices of the phyllaries are black with black cilia and a terminal spine only 1–1.5 mm long; *C. niederi* has brown, white-ciliate appendices with a terminal spine 2.5 mm long; in *C. wettsteinii* the appendices are black with black cilia, but the terminal spine is even longer than in *C. musakii*.

C. musakii has the same chromosome number as *C. niederi*, $2n=18$; that of *C. wettsteinii* is not known.

Other collections: Greece. Prov. Karditsa, prope pagum Musaki, in rupestribus calcareis, alt. ca 200 m, 22.9.1977 Georgiadis 1731 (UPA) – Rochers à Pili et rochers à Musaki, 6.7.1963, J. Contandriopoulos, G. Deleuil & P. Quézel (Université Aix-Marseille III).

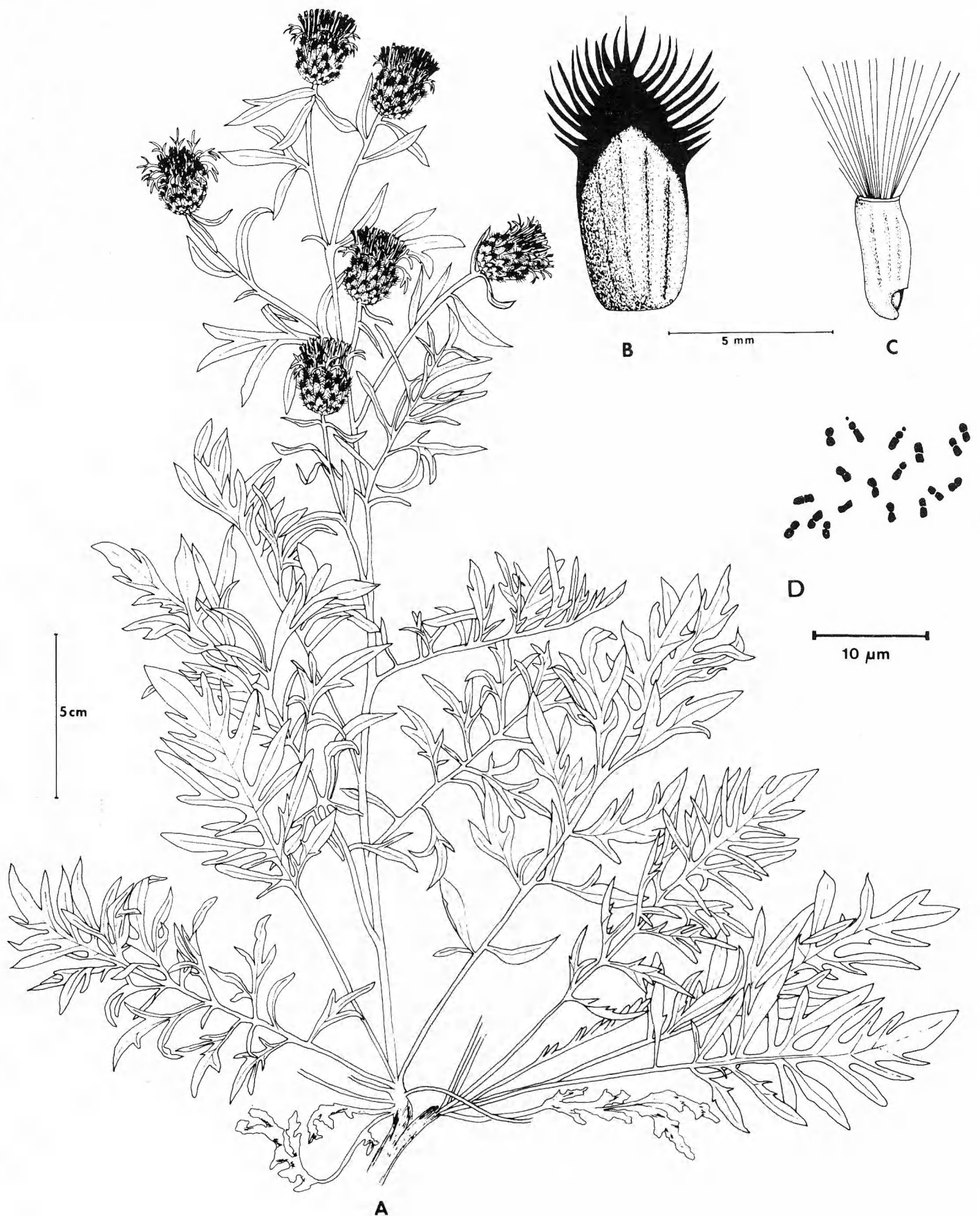


Fig. 1. *Centaurea musakii*. – A: Habit. – B: Phyllary. – C: Achene. – D: Somatic metaphase plate.