

## THE TRANSCAUCASIAN AND IRANIAN COLLECTIONS OF J. N. SZOVITS

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**ABSTRACT.** A short historical background to the collections of J. N. Szovits is given, followed by a summary of his itineraries for the years 1828 to 1830. A gazetteer of place names occurring in literature relating to the collections is added.

### INTRODUCTION

Collaborators on the Flora of Turkey and Flora Iranica projects frequently have to cite specimens from the Transcaucasian and Iranian collections of J. N. Szovits and often find considerable difficulty in tracing his localities. His material, collected from 1828 to 1830, was initially worked over by F. E. L. von Fischer and C. A. Meyer and many new species were described by them. Subsequently Boissier, De Candolle, Bunge and Trinius among others made use of his collections, these being, along with those of Aucher Eloy, Seidlitz and Buhse, the only ones of consequence available from the Azerbaijan area. The value of the material was increased by the fact that Szovits stayed in his collecting areas for the entire flowering season, gathering specimens from February and March until the winter months.

Szovits's material was never systematically published and references to it, including at least 50 new species descriptions, are scattered through various works. However a manuscript written by C. A. Meyer describing about half the collections, together with itinerary notes, was available to V. I. Lipsky when working on his *Flora Kavkaza* (1899). A fairly full account of Szovits's journeys based on Meyer's manuscript notes was given by Lipsky in his introductory chapter on collectors\*.

Johann Nepomuk Szovits (sometimes cited in error as Josef) was a Hungarian pharmacist who lived and worked in Odessa. He was originally concerned with the flora of the southern Ukraine and collected there with A. F. Lang, another pharmacist, from Pest, who eventually published *Illustratio Plantarum Herbarii Florae Ruthenicae* (1827), and named *Ornithogalum szovitsii* in his friend's honour. It was at about this time that Szovits, on the order of the Emperor Nicholas I, left to travel in Transcaucasia.

In 1826 war broke out between Russia and Persia and a year later Tabriz was occupied by Russia. The Treaty of Turkmanchai in 1828 ended the war and resulted in Persia yielding Yerevan and Nakhichevan to Russian rule. Thus Szovits began his collecting expeditions under protection of the Russian army. From 1828 until his death in 1830 he collected herbarium material, seeds and living plants for the Botanic Garden in St. Petersburg;

\* I would like to acknowledge the help of the National Lending Library Translating Programme in making available the translation (RTS 7292) of §105 from Lipsky's introduction (pp 153-155).

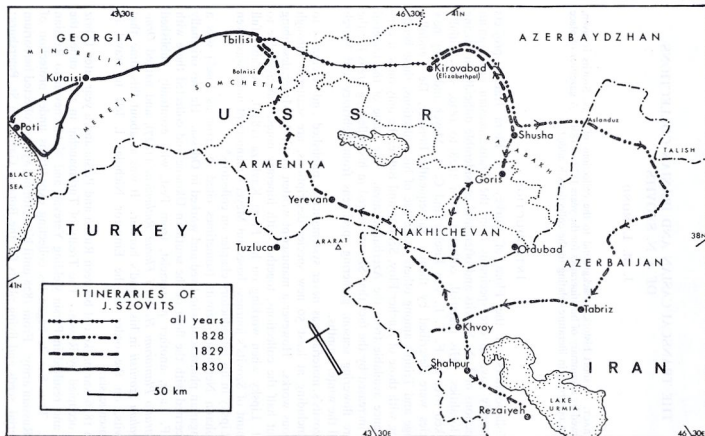


FIG. 1. Map showing approximate routes of J. N. Szovits in Transcaucasia and NW Iran. (Spelling as in Times Atlas, 1959).

this was during the early days of the directorship of F. E. L. von Fischer when collecting expeditions to many parts of the world were being organized and encouraged.

Szovits's herbarium collections, acknowledged by Boissier, Trautvetter and others as being particularly fine, contained many duplicates which are now widely distributed in various herbaria. In 1828 he is recorded as having collected 20,000 specimens (including presumably duplicates) covering 906 species; in 1829 37,000 specimens of 664 species. The most complete set is in the Leningrad herbarium (LE).

V. I. Lipsky in his *Flora Kavkaza* gave an itinerary of Szovits's journeys and a condensed form of this with the original spelling follows. A map of approximate routes made up from Lipsky's details uses modern spelling as in the *Times Atlas*, (see fig. 1). A gazetteer of Szovits's place names with modern equivalents follows the itinerary.

#### ITINERARY

1828. Arrived Tiflis 4 February and remained until 15th; reached Elizabethtopol on 22nd, River Terter on 23rd, Shusha on 24th, Akh Oglan on 26th, River Arax and Aslanduz on 28th; from 29th to 8 March via Meskin, Lovi and Akhan to Tabriz; 19-26 March Khoi, and until May collected in the Khoi-Urmiah area; from 16 May-30 July Khoi area including Seidkhadzhi, Charbulak, Chila-Khana, Pera and Badalan; early September arrived Erivan, climbed Ararat to snow line 17-18 Sept.; remained at Erivan until 7 November; returned to Tiflis early in December via Bezobdal and Gerger.

1829. Left Tiflis 31 March, 1-30 April Katerinenfeld; 4-9 May Elizabethtopol; 10th crossed rivers Kyurakchai and Gyuranchai, via Terter to Shakhbulakh until 21 May; arrived Akh-Oglan 24th, Gerysy 28th-6 June visiting Karagel (i); 8-12 June via Ingrakas, Bazyrchai, Shikarchai valley, Arekligeduk (Arygly?) mountain, Nakhichevanchai valley, Karababa(i) to Nakhichevan remaining until 28th; Alagez mountain (ii), Koshadara valley (25-30 km NE Karababa, (i) ) until 29 August; via Chanakhchi (c.12 km from Shusha) undertaking an excursion eastwards from 22 September-3 October; arrived Elizabethtopol 12 October; via Elenendorf to Tiflis, arriving 25 October.

1830. After a short excursion at the end of March to Elizabethtopol left Tiflis on 1 May and arrived at Kutais on 23rd; 3 June arrived Redut-Kale, 9th at Poti, 10th at Sv. Nikolai, 12th-27th Ozurgety, 28th Adzharskiya mountains; 12 July-3rd August Ozurgety and returned to Kutais.

It was in Kutais that Szovits died from cholera on 30 August 1830. His name is commemorated by the distinctive monotypic genus of Umbelliferae *Szovitsia* (*S. callicarpa* Fisch. & C. A. Meyer).

#### GAZETTEER

Szovits localities are taken from the works of various authors (Boissier, De Candolle, Fischer and Meyer, Bunge etc.) and from Lipsky (1899, i.e. Meyer's manuscript) as well as from herbarium specimens. Modern names

and grid references correspond mostly to those used in the US Board on Geographic Names, Gazetteers 19 and 42 and in the Times Atlas 2: pl. 32, 37, 44. The few Turkish localities follow the grid system adopted in P. H. Davis, *Flora of Turkey*.

Where a locality has not been traced exactly a rough indication of its situation is given.

Aderbeidzhan (i)	USSR, Azerbaydzhan.
Aderbeidzhan (ii)	Iran, Azerbaijan.
Adschar	USSR, Georgia, Adzhariya.
Adzharskiya mnts	USSR, Georgia, Adzharskaya, 41° 40' N, 42° 00' E.
Agh-Aglan	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Akhmedli, 39° 34' N, 46° 34' E.
Akar-Tschai	?USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Akera river (Karabakh region).
Akhan*	Iran, Azerbaijan, ?Ahar, 38° 25' N, 47° 07' E.
Akh-Oglan	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Akhmedli, 39° 34' N, 46° 34' E.
Alagez mnt (i)	USSR, Armeniya, Aragats mnt., 40° 32' N, 44° 11' E.
Alagez mnt (ii)	USSR, Nakhichevan, c. 25-30 km NE of Karababa.
Alaghes	?USSR, Armeniya, Alagez, 40° 40' N, 44° 15' E.
Ararat	Turkey, B9 Kars/Ağri, Ağri Dağı, 39° 44' N, 44° 15' E.
Arax	USSR/Iran boundary, Aras river, (Araxes river).
Arekliqeduk mnt	USSR, ?Armeniya/Nakhichevan watershed.
Armenia	USSR, Armeniya.
Arygly	?USSR, Armeniya, Arygly stream, 39° 34' N, 45° 54' E.
Aslanduz	Iran, Azerbaijan, Aslanduz, 39° 27' N, 47° 30' E.
Atropatania	Iran; ancient name of eastern Azerbaijan.
Avrin	Iran, Azerbaijan, mountain c. 40 km west of Khvoy, c. 38° 35' N, 44° 30' E.
Badalan	Iran, Azerbaijan, Aland valley west of Khvoy.
Basartschai	USSR, Armeniya/Azerbaydzhan, River Vorotan (Bargushat).
Bazyrchai	USSR, Armeniya/Azerbaydzhan, River Vorotan (Bargushat).
Bezobdal	USSR, Armeniya, Bazumtar, 40° 55' N, 44° 22' E.
Cartilinia	USSR, Georgia, Kartaliniya, 41° 55' N, 44° 25' E.
Chanakhchi (i)	USSR, Armeniya, Chanakhchi, 39° 17' N, 46° 23' E, (fide Gazetteer).
Chanakhchi (ii)	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, c. 12 km from Shusha, (fide Lipsky).
Charbulak	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shorbulakh, c. half way from Khvoy to Shahpur.
Chila-Khana	Iran, Azerbaijan, Chelleh Khaneh, Khvoy district, (there are localities with this name between Tabriz and Marand, just east of Sufian).
Choi	Iran, Azerbaijan, Khvoy, 38° 32' N, 45° 02' E.
Chram	USSR, Georgia, Khrami river, south of Tiflis.
Daratchitchagh	USSR, Armeniya, Darachichak Da., mountain east of Alagez (i).
Deliman	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shahpur, 38° 13' N, 44° 50' E.
Duschet	USSR, Georgia, Dusheti, 42° 05' N, 44° 42' E.

\* Names from Lipsky and possibly misreadings of Meyer's handwriting?

Echmiadzin	USSR, Armeniya, Echmiadzin, 40° 11' N, 44° 17' E.
Elenendorf	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Elenendorf, 40° 35' N, 46° 20' E.
Elisabethpol	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Kirovabad, 40° 39' N, 46° 20' E.
Elizavetopol	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Kirovabad, 40° 39' N, 46° 20' E.
Erivan	USSR, Armeniya, Yerevan, 40° 20' N, 44° 31' E.
Gandscha	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Kirovabad, 40° 39' N, 46° 20' E.
Gerger	USSR, Armeniya, Gerger, 40° 57' N, 44° 26' E.
Gerysy	USSR, Armeniya, Goris (Geryusy), 39° 31' N, 46° 22' E.
Ghierus	?USSR, Armeniya, Goris (Geryusy), 39° 31' N, 46° 22' E.
Goktsha	USSR, Armeniya, Lake Sevan, (largest lake in Transcaucasia).
Grusia	USSR, Georgia (Gruziya).
Guria	USSR, Georgia, Guriya, Black Sea region south of Poti.
Gyuranchai	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Geranchai, tributary of River Kura east of Kirovabad.
Helenendorf	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Elenendorf, 40° 35' N, 46° 20' E.
Iberia	USSR, ± corresponding to modern Georgia.
Imeretia	USSR, Georgia, area west of Kutaisi.
Ingrakas	USSR, Armeniya, Goris district.
Intschai	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Incha river, west of Terter.
Kadschori	?USSR, Georgia, Khashuri, 41° 58' N, 43° 35' E.
Kalaghanez	Iran, Azerbaijan, Khvoy district.
Karababa (i)	USSR, Nakhichevan, near Shakhbuz, 39° 25' N, 45° 36' E.
Karababa (ii)	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, 39° 11' N, 46° 35' E.
Karabach	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.
Karabagh	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.
Karabakh	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast.
Karadagh (i)	Iran, Azerbaijan, Qareh Dag, 39° 12' N, 44° 33' E.
Karadagh (ii)	Iran, Azerbaijan, mountain c. 40 km west of Khvoy.
Karagel (i)	USSR, Armeniya, Karagel (Qareh Göl), lake between Goris and Mnt Ishikhly.
Karagel (ii)	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Karagel (Qareh Geul), near Karababa (ii), 39° 07' N, 46° 32' E.
Karagiöl mnt	USSR, see Karagel (i) or (ii).
Karagöl	USSR, see Karagel (i)?
Karasu	Iran, Qareh Su, tributary of Aras, NE of Ahar.
Kartaliniya	USSR, Georgia, Kartaliniya, 41° 55' N, 44° 25' E.
Katerinenfeld	USSR, Georgia, Bolnisi, 41° 28' N, 44° 33' E.
Khoi	Iran, Azerbaijan, Khvoy, 38° 32' N, 45° 02' E.
Kias	?USSR, Armeniya, (but there is a Qias (Kias) in Iran, Azerbaijan, 39° 12' N, 45° 01' E, very near frontier with Nakhichevan).
Komadara	?misprint for the following.

Koschadara	USSR, Nakhichevan, valley c. 25–30 km NE of Karababa (i).
Koshadara	USSR, Nakhichevan, valley c. 25–30 km NE of Karababa (i).
Kulp	Turkey, A9 Kars, Tuzluca, 40° 02' N, 43° 39' E.
Kuschra	Iran, Azerbaijan, Rezaiyeh district.
Kutais	USSR, Georgia, Kutaisi, 42° 15' N, 42° 44' E.
Kyurakchai	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Kyurok-chay, tributary of River Kura east of Kirovabad.
Lavin	Iran, Azerbaijan, torrent near Khvoy.
Lovi*	Iran, Azerbaijan, ? Lari, 38° 32' N, 47° 52' E.
Meshkin	Iran, Azerbaijan, Meshgin Shahr, (Khiyav), 38° 24' N, 47° 49' E.
Mingrelia	USSR, Georgia, Black sea region north of Poti.
Mutschet dagh	Iran, Azerbaijan, near Tabriz,—botanized by Seidlitz and mistakenly cited by Boissier as Szovits locality (see <i>Satureia atropatana</i> ).
Mzchet	USSR, Georgia, Mtskheta, 41° 50' N, 44° 43' E.
Nackitschewan	USSR, Nakhichevan, Nakhichevan, 39° 12' N, 45° 24' E.
Nehmedabad	Iran, Azerbaijan,—Seidlitz locality, see Mutschet dagh.
Ordubad	USSR, Nakhichevan, Ordubad, 38° 54' N, 46° 00' E.
Ormiah	Iran, Azerbaijan, Rezaiyeh, 37° 32' N, 45° 02' E.
Ourmiah	Iran, Azerbaijan, Rezaiyeh, 37° 32' N, 45° 02' E.
Ozurgety	USSR, Georgia, Makharadze, 41° 55' N, 42° 02' E.
Pachlu-Tschinari	Not traced.
Pera	Iran, Azerbaijan, Pira, c. 12 km NW of Khvoy.
Pere	Iran, Azerbaijan, Pira, c. 12 km NW of Khvoy.
Perodse	Iran, Azerbaijan, Khvoy district.
Poti	USSR, Georgia, Poti, 42° 11' N, 41° 41' E.
Redut-Kale	USSR, Georgia, Redut-Kale, Black sea coast north of Poti.
Rion	USSR, Georgia, Rioni, river of the Mingrelia/Guria boundary.
Salmas	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shahpur, 38° 13' N, 44° 50' E.
Schabanli	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shabanli (Shaibanlu), south of Khvoy.
Schachbulagh	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Shakhbulakh, north of Agdam on Khachin river.
Scharbulagh	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shorbulakh, c. half way from Khvoy to Shahpur.
Seidabad	Iran, Azerbaijan, east of Tabriz, near Bostanabad.
Seid-khadzi	Iran, Azerbaijan, Seyyed Hajjin, 38° 22' N, 45° 02' E.
Seidkhodji	Iran, Azerbaijan, Seyyed Hajjin, 38° 22' N, 45° 02' E.
Shakhbulakh	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Shakhbulakh, north of Agdam on Khachin river.
Shikarchai	USSR, Armeniya, river in Goris region.
Shusha	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Shusha, 39° 44' N, 46° 45' E.
Somchetia	USSR, Georgia, mountainous area south of River Khrami.

\* Names from Lipsky and possibly misreadings of Meyer's handwriting?

Ssoutch Bulagh	Iran, Azerbaijan, Mahabad, 36° 44' N, 45° 44' E—uncertain if Szovits was so far south; this locality botanised by Seidlitz.
Sv. Nikolai	USSR, Georgia, fort on Black sea coast south of Poti.
Tabriz	Iran, Azerbaijan, Tabriz, 38° 05' N, 46° 18' E.
Tchorbula	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shorbulakh, c. half way from Khvoy to Shahpur.
Temer	Iran, Azerbaijan, Shahpur district, (?Tamara, SE of Shahpur).
Terter river	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Terter river, tributary of Kura river.
Terter	USSR, Azerbaydzhan, Mir Bashir, 40° 20' N, 46° 56' E.
Tiflis	USSR, Georgia, Tbilisi, 41° 43' N, 44° 48' E.
Tschilachane	Iran, Azerbaijan—see Chila-Khana.
Urmia	Iran, Azerbaijan, Rezaiyeh, 37° 32' N, 45° 02' E.
Urmiah	Iran, Azerbaijan, Rezaiyeh, 37° 32' N, 45° 02' E.

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