Notes RBG Edinb. 41(1):55–56 (1983)

GLADIOLUS ANTAKIENSIS
A new species from Turkey and the Lebanon

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ABSTRACT. *Gladiolus antakiensis* A. P. Hamilton (Iridaceae) is described as a new species. It is recorded from Turkey, the Lebanon and Syria, and is closely related to *G. italicus* Miller. A chromosome count of 2n = 120 is recorded.

Gladiolus antakiensis A. P. Hamilton, **sp. nov.**

G. italici Miller affinis sed in characteribus sequentibus differt: planta nunquam gynodioica, statura 20–60cm (nec 50–100cm) alta, folia 30–35cm (nec 35–65cm), spica 3–6-flora (nec 6–16-flora), tepalum anticum medium c. 3.5cm (nec c. 5.0cm), ratio anthera: filamentum c. 1.3:1.0cm (nec 1.7:1.2cm), capsula c. 1.0cm (nec c. 1.4cm), semen c. 2.0mm (nec c. 3.0mm) diam.

Cormus cum 0–5 cormulis. *Tunica* fibris crassis vestita. *Planta* 20–60cm. *Vaginae basales* plerumque 2, pallido- ad atrorubrae, saepe in vivo punctis albis vel pallidoviridibus. *Folia* plerumque 4; basalia ensiformia, infima 10–25cm × 8mm, cetera 30–35cm; folia caulina reducta, bractiformia, 2–5mm lata, irregulariter nervata. *Inflorescentia* plerumque 3–6-flora, laxa, plerumque leniter disticha. *Perianthium* vivide purpureorubrum ad roseum. *Tepala* lateralia superiora oblonga. *Antherae* quam filamenta longiores. *Capsula* in statu maturo torulosa. *Semina* globosopyriformia, exalata. *Fl.* Apr.–Jun. 2n = 120.

Related to *G. italicus* Miller but differing in the following characters: never gynodioecious, 20–60cm (not 50–100cm) tall, leaves 30–35cm (not 35–65cm), spike 3–6-flowered (not 6–16-flowered), upper central tepal c. 3.5cm (not c.5.0cm), anther to filament length c.1.3:1.0cm (not 1.7:1.2cm), capsule c. 1.0cm (not c. 1.4cm), seed c. 2.0mm (not 3.0mm) diam.

Rootstock a corm with 0–5 cormlets. *Tunic* with coarse fibres. *Plant* 20–60cm. *Basal sheaths* usually 2, pale to dark red and often spotted with white or pale green (in live material). *Leaves* usually 4, the basal ensiform, the lowest 10–25cm × 8mm, the other basal leaves 30–35cm, the cauline reduced and bract-like, 2–5mm wide, irregularly veined. *Inflorescence* usually 3- to 6-flowered, lax, usually weakly distichous. *Perianth* bright purplish-red to pink. Upper lateral perianth segments (tepals) oblong. *Anthers* longer than filament. *Capsule* torulose when mature. *Seeds* globose-pyriform, not winged. 2n = 120. *Fl.* Apr.–Jun.

Type. Turkey C9 Mardin: d. Silopi, Cudi Dağ above Hessana, rocky limestone slopes in *Quercus aegilops* [sic: = *Q. ithaburensis* subsp. *macrolepis*]–*Q. infectoria* forest, flowers carmine-pink, 1200–1400m, 11 v 1966, *Davis* 42791 (holo. E).

TURKEY. C8 Siirt: 13km from Siirt to Kurtalan, 850m, *Quercus infectoria* scrub, 18 v 1966, *Davis* 43120 (E).

LEBANON. Harissa, 700m, cultivated terraces, 16 iv 1959, *O. Polunin* 5280 (E). Choueifat, shady banks, 18 v 1943, *Davis* 6022A (atypically 1-flowered and smaller in all its parts—E). Nebi Shouah above Baynu, dry chalky knolls, 1220m, 14 vi 1943, *Davis* 6333A (E). Baynu, in *Poterium* scrub, 25 iv 1943, *Davis* 5960 (E). Tripoli, 18 iv 1866, *Blanche* (as *G. illyricus* W. Koch var. *anatolicus* Boiss.—E). Saida, *Gaillardot* (as *G. illyricus* var. *anatolicus*—E).

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This new species is closely related to *G. italicus* Miller (*G. segetum* Ker-Gawler) and appears to be the wild ancestral material of that cornfield weed. It is virtually identical to *G. italicus* in all qualitative characters with a notable exception being the absence of gynodioecy. Differences in quantitative characters are given in the diagnosis.

Although this species was first recognized by the author in 1975 in the hills above Antioch (hence the epithet *antakiensis*) and subsequently from Yayladağı to north of Serai in Syria along the E5 road, a specimen collected by Prof. P. H. Davis has been chosen as the type. The distribution of the species, on present knowledge, extends from the Lebanon in the south to the province of Mardin (Turkey) in the northeast. All living material already circulated by the author has been derived from an area 19.7 miles east of Uludere in Mardin province, Turkey, on the E24 road. The chromosome count of $2n = 120$ was made from material from the same locality.