

Iris (Iridodictyum) *kopetdaghense*

Note: The name *kopetdaghensis* or *kopetdagenense* is already used for a Juno Iris. Russian botanists treat Retic and Junos as genus' separate from that of Irises. This allows species names to be reused, just as happens for unrelated plants ie. *Iris danfordiae* and *Crocus danfordiae*. In the West there is strong support amongst botanists for all of these plants to be considered Irises (no, not the Crocus). In recent years Kew has been doing work to genetically fingerprint Irises. Apparently they have found supporting evidence for indeed calling all of these Irises. At some point in the future, details of this work will be published. At that time a new name for this species will need to be picked.

Having not yet seen this Retic in bloom, I can not say whether I consider the plant described here to truly be a new species or not. The reason I mention this, is because I know for a fact, that the species *Iris reticulata* is very variable. I am sketpticle that the features described here are enough to separate it out as a new species. However as Dr. Karbanov suggests, he feels other distinguishing features will come to light over time. The one thing in particular in this plant's favour is that it occurs on the eastern most fringe of *Reticulata*'s habitat.

Russian Academy of Sciences

Botanical Journal Vol. 83 N 6, June 1998

D. Kurbanov: New species of the genus *Iridodictyum* (Iridaceae) from Turkmenistan

Summary

New species *Iridodictyum kopetdaghense* from Turkmenistan is described.

When collecting a herbarium in the territory between Central and Western Kopetdag in spring 1997, a new very interesting plant from the family Iridaceae was found. It was identified as a new species. Its description in Latin is given.

Type: «Turkmenistan, Western Kopetdag, 10 km to the south from the village Garaul, near melting snow, on loam slopes, 2000 m altitude, 6 IV 1997, flowers, fruits, D. Kurbanov, N. Cherepova, V. Cherepov» (LE).

Relationships: The species is related to *I. reticulatum* (Bieb.) Rodionenko, but differ from it by a number of characters: narrow leaves without four clear seen borders, shorter fruits (its length only twice (not more) longer than width, when in *I. reticulatum* fruit length two-four times longer than width). Moreover, leaves of the new species in a period of flowering are of smaller sizes than that in *I. reticulatum*, but in post floral period they grow faster up to 40-48 cm (but not 7-12).

Distribution: Turkmenistan, Western Kopetdag.

We have an idea, that investigating the new species introduced new distinguishing characters will be found.

The author is very grateful to prof. G.I. Rodionenko for identification of the new species.

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A New Species Of The Genus *Iridodictyum* (Iridaceae) From Turkmenistan

by D. Kurbanov

→ Russian text *Iridodictyum kopetdaghense*

→ Russian text

In the process of collecting herbarium specimens between central & western Kopetdaghen in spring 1997 we found a very interesting species from family Iridaceae which we considering as new type. Below is a description:

→ Russian text

***Iridodictyum kopetdaghense* Kurbanov sp. nov.** -- Herba perennis bulbosa. Bulbus oblongus 2.0-2.5 cm in diam., tunica exteriore minute reticulata, fructificatione atrofusca. Folia vaginata 2-3, sub anthesi 12-15 cm longa, laminis anguste linearibus non quadrangulatis; apicibus hand corneis. Pedunculus sub anthesi ad 1.5-2.0 cm altus, post anthesin tantum multo elongatus, ad 7-8 cm longus. Perigonii tubus 3.5-4.0 cm longus, atro-violaceus, lobis externis limbo macula intense aurea «ocello» medio notato. Capsula cylindrica, manifeste costata, subduplo longiori, quam lata. Semina oblongo-ovalia, atro-grisea, 3.5 mm lata, 5 mm longa, arillo obsoleto. Partes hypogaeae juventute squamis reticulato-fibrosis vestitae, fructificatione exeunte squamae vetustae bulbillis accrescentibus diruptae.

***Iridodictyum kopetdaghense* Kurbanov new species** -- Perennial herb with a bulb. The bulb is oblong 2.0-2.5 cm in diameter. The exterior tunic is finely netted. Leaves coming out from vagina 2-3. By bloom time they are 12-15 cm long. The narrow lined leaves are non quadrangular. The tops not pointed. The bloom is not over 1.5-2 cm when it first opens. By the time blooming finishes it becomes up to 7-8 cm long. Perinth tube 3.5-4 cm long. Dark-violet colour, with a golden fall ridge stripe. The seed pod is cylindric, with a length twice its width. Seeds are oblong oval, dark grey, 3.5 mm wide by 5 mm long without any aril. At the end of the growing season the young bulbs which formed at the base of each leaf have grown up into the space occupied by the old bulb and are covered by their own reticulated coat as well as collectively by the netting of the parent bulb.

→ Russian text

Typus: «Turcomania, Kopetdagh Occidentalis, 10 km ad meridiem a pago Garaul, ad nives deliquescentes, in declivibus argillosis, inter Junipereta collucata 200 m s. m., 6 IV 1997, fl., fr., D. Kurbanov, N. Czerepova, V. Czerepov» (LE).

Type: Turkmenistan, west Kopetdag, 10km south from Garaul, near melting snow, on loam slopes, 2000 m altitude, 6 IV 1997, flowers, fruits, D. Kurbanov, N. Cherepova, V. Cherepov» (LE).

→ Russian text

Affinitas. Species *I. reticulato* (Bieb.) Rodionenko affinis, sed foliis anguste linearibus haud quadrangulatis, sub anthesi minoribus, post anthesin ad 40-48 cm longis (nec 7-12 cm longis), capsulis brevioribus, subduplo (nec 2-4 plo) longioribus quam latis differt.

Relationship: The species is related to *I. reticulatum* (Bieb.) Rodionenko, but differ from it by a number of characters: narrow leaves without four clear seen borders, shorter fruits (its length only twice (not more) longer than width, when in *I. reticulatum* fruit length two-four times longer than width). Moreover, leaves of the new species in a period of flowering are of smaller sizes than that in *I. reticulatum*, but in post floral period they grow faster up to 40-48 cm (but not 7-12).

→ Russian text

Distributio. Turcomania, Kopetdagh Occidentalis.

Distribution: Turkmenistan, Western Kopetdag.

→ Russian text

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When I figure out how to provide users with a True Type font simultaneously for both Macintosh OS and Microsoft Operating Systems I will include the original Russian text. The format above is intended to be: Russian; Latin; English
Alan McMurtrie