

Paronychia manfrediana (Caryophyllaceae), a new species from northeast Greece

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Abstract. *Paronychia manfrediana* (Caryophyllaceae) is described as a species new to science based on material collected near the Turkish border in northeastern Greece; it is illustrated by a photograph and full colour plate. Although belonging to *Paronychia* sect. *Heterosepalae* it bears a strong resemblance to *P. macedonica* (*Paronychia* sect. *Anoplonychia*), differing by its leaves with prominent midvein beneath, the number of stipules (four) at each node and the outer surface of the sepal which is completely glabrous or adpressed-pubescent only in the upper part. In *P. macedonica*, the leaf midvein is not as conspicuous, there are two stipules at each node and the entire outer surface of the sepal is densely sericeous. The leaves of *P. capitata* and *P. macrosepala*, both in sect. *Heterosepalae*, differ in being strongly scabrid-hirsute and densely sericeous respectively.

Key words: new species, northeast Greece, *Paronychia* (Caryophyllaceae), taxonomy

Paronychia manfrediana Kit Tan & Strid, sp. nova (Figs. 1&2)

Type: Greece, Nomos Evrou, Eparchia Soufliou, Pessani, c. 17 km from Dadia along road to Loutros, rocky serpentine outcrop in mixed deciduous woodland, 400 m, 41°06' N, 26°06' E, 6 June 2001, coll. *P. Lassen, A. Strid, Kit Tan & G. Vold* (numbered as *Strid & al.* 53075, holo- WU; iso- G, herb. Kit, herb. Strid, UPA).

Additional collections from same locality: 7 May 2000, coll. *Strid & Lassen* 50434 (LD); 24 July 2002, coll. *P. Lassen, A. Strid, Kit Tan & G. Vold* (numbered as *Strid & al.* 53881 in seed collection at Göteborg Botanical Garden); 15 June 2005, *Strid* 55635 (ATH, G, LD, herb. Kit, herb. Strid – distributed as *Paronychia* sp.).

Species nova a *P. macedonica* differt praecipue foliis subtus nervo (dorsali) mediano statu sicco con-

spicuo, nodo unoquoque stipulis quattuor, sepalis facie exteriore glabris vel tertio parte apicali tantum adpresse sericeis.

Herbaceous perennial with woody base and slender taproot less than 2 mm diam., forming small mats or patches 5–15 cm across. Stems creeping-prostrate, much-branched; internodes sulcate, pale green, 1–3 mm long, subglabrous or with short, stiffly patent to retrorse, subadpressed hairs; nodes pale brown. Leaves sessile, opposite, subfleshy and rather rigid, persistent, unequal, elliptic to oblong-ob lanceolate, 3–4.5 × 1.2–2.5 mm, obtuse to subobtuse, pale green, scabrid-pubescent to glabrescent on both surfaces, stiffly white-ciliate, with midvein prominent beneath on drying. Stipules conspicuous, 4 at each node, scarious, silvery, ovate-lanceolate, shorter than to almost equalling leaves, puberulent at base, acute-acuminate or mucronulate. Flowers small, with short perigynous zone, crowded



Fig. 1. *Paronychia manfrediana*.



Fig. 2. *Paronychia manfrediana* (photo A. Strid).

in terminal and subterminal glomerules 10–15 mm diam. Bracts scarious, silvery, concealing flowers, nearly twice the length of calyx, broadly ovate, acute to acuminate. Sepals herbaceous, 3-veined, unequal, narrowly ovate to linear-lanceolate, the longest 2–2.5 × c. 0.8 mm, plano-concave, dark green with narrow hyaline margin, white-ciliate, glabrous on both surfaces or outer surface adpressed-pubescent in upper third; apex ciliate to white-bearded, acute. Petals absent. Stamens 5, included; filaments short, unequal; anthers oblong-ovoid, 0.5 mm, orange-yellow; pollen cream. Ovary ovoid-conical, glabrous, with distinct style bifid at apex. Fruit c. 1 × 0.8 mm, glabrous.

The new species was first discovered in May 2000; the material recollected in June 2001 constitutes the type. Seed was collected in July 2002. A return visit to the serpentine outcrop in June 2005 provided adequate specimens for distribution.

The locality is a small serpentine outcrop in deciduous oak woodland and with stream close by, running dry in summer. The recently described *Onosma*

kittanae was collected here, as were a number of other rare or interesting species, e.g., *Alyssum sibiricum*, *Arum elongatum*, *Colchicum turcicum*, *Crocus pulchellus*, *Dianthus pinifolius* subsp. *tenuicaulis*, *Fumana aciphylla*, *Genista anatolica*, *Notholaena marantae*, *Sesleria alba*, *Silene spergulifolia* and *Tripleurospermum oreades*. Along the small stream were a few species which are otherwise rare in the northeast, e.g., *Montia arvensis*, *Ophioglossum vulgatum* growing in short damp turf, and *Ranunculus gracilis*.

Paronychia manfrediana differs from *P. macedonica* Chaudhri mainly by its four nodular stipules, leaves with midvein prominent and visible beneath on drying, and ciliate sepals which are glabrous or externally hairy only in the upper third. In *P. macedonica* there are two stipules at each node, the leaf midvein is less conspicuous in herbarium material, and the exterior of the whole sepal is densely sericeous. *P. capitata* (L.) Lam. belongs to the same section as *P. manfrediana*. However, it has longer internodes (4–10 mm), more scabrid-

hirsute leaves and in Greece, it is restricted to East Peloponnese and Attiki. *P. macrosepala* Boiss., also in the same section, is widespread and has bracts which are shorter than or equalling the flowers which are thus not concealed; the leaves are also densely sericeous instead of pubescent or glabrescent.

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