

## Two unnamed Turkish roses

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**Abstract.** *Rosa* ‘Professor Turhan Baytop’ and *Rosa* ‘Asuman’, two different morphotypes of the fragrant double white-flowered cultivar of *Rosa beggeriana*, are formally named and described. They stem from old roses once cultivated in gardens of Central and East Anatolia and now gradually disappearing when the gardens are neglected and abandoned. The distribution, botanical and horticultural backgrounds of the cultivars are provided.

**Key words:** *Ahmediyye gülü*, botanical history, *Kışmırı gülü*, new cultivars, old roses, *Rosa beggeriana*, *Tevrizi gülü*, Turkey, two morphotypes, Turkish gardens

There is a rose found in the gardens of the East Anatolian vilayets (provinces) of Elazığ and Van which is referred to by the Turkish names of *Tevrizi gülü* (rose of Tabriz, Elazığ) and *Kışmırı gülü* (rose of Kashmir, Van). It is a very fragrant, small, milky white, double-flowered cultivar used for scenting the well known mulberry-treacle prepared in these provinces under the name *dut pekmezi* (*dut*, the mulberry fruit). This plant is not mentioned in the relevant volume of *Flora of Turkey and the East Aegean Islands* (Nilsson 1972) nor its two supplements (Davis & al. 1988; Güner & al. 2001). The late Professor Turhan Baytop from the University of Istanbul, a man who loved roses and had written a book on *Old Garden Roses of Turkey* (Baytop 2001), wondered as to its identity and in the year 2000, sent photographs of the rose to Ivan Louette at Chaumont-Gistoux, Belgium, asking for an opinion. Louette thought it might be a double-flowered variant of *Rosa laxa* Retz. which is native to the Tien Shan and Pamir Alai ranges of Central Asia and that it seemed to be an undescribed variant. Although Turhan Baytop noted it differed from *R. laxa* in its

double-form and milky white (not rose-pink) flowers he accepted Louette’s opinion and proposed the name *R. laxa* var. *harputensis*, var. nov. in his book (Baytop 2001), providing photographs (on the front cover of book and on p. 114, photo 23) together with a description in Turkish (pp. 83-84), but without validating the name with a Latin description or diagnosis. However, a type was designated with the herbarium of deposition (ISTE).

Although no fruit was formed the plants were identified easily by us as *R. beggeriana* Schrenk. Features of this species are the glaucous pruinose stems, the yellow, curved and paired infrastipular prickles, the lax and paniculate-corymbose inflorescence, numerous bracts, small size of hypanthia, entire sepals, etc, which are all expressed in our rose. *R. beggeriana* is a widespread species with a disjunct range, occurring in central and eastern Iran, central and northern Afghanistan, southern Turkmenistan, SE Uzbekistan, S Kazakhstan, Tadjikistan, Kyrgyzstan and also the western part of China (Zieliński 1982; Browicz &

Zieliński 1984). In Turkey it was first noted towards the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in three separate localities disjunct from the main part of the species range by more than a thousand km (Nilsson 1972; Browicz & Zieliński 1984). Since the species is suspected not native to Anatolia it is possible that these Turkish stands (not seen) do not represent wild *R. beggeriana* but the naturalized double-flowered form.

## The rose, its botanical and horticultural history

*Rosa beggeriana* with double flowers arose certainly as a mutation of the 'normal' form of the species. However, the place of origin is difficult to establish. Bearing in mind that *R. beggeriana* is very rare in, if not completely absent from Turkey, the origin should be looked for in the regions where the species is common, e.g., Iran, Afghanistan or Central Asia. We think it was introduced from Iran to Turkey during Seljuk times and is one of the old and long-forgotten garden roses popular in the past but now driven out of cultivation by modern and novel varieties. In Central Anatolia this 'relic' rose had been noted in the districts of Amasya, Eğin and Harput. It was grown in the gardens of the members of the "Order of Ahmediyye", e.g., the House of Ahmediyye in the province of Van. We owe thanks to İlhan Arslanyürek, a researcher from Gaziantep, who sent to Turhan Baytop the following information concerning the rose from his area:

As recent as sixty to seventy years ago, the villagers of Gaziantep planted this rose at the base of their garden walls. Within a few years, the branches had climbed over the walls, decorating them with their numerous and fragrant white flowers. "Ahmediyye" is the name of a religious order founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century (Islam Ansiklopedisi 2: 171, 1989) and the order probably gave the name to the rose [Ahmediyye is also the name of a fortune-teller (Ahmediyye fah). The hodja (teller) consults his book, reads a passage and pronounces on the subject therein]. The rose was common in the districts of Kozulca and Suyabatmaz but when the houses became derelict and the gardens neglected and abandoned, the rose gradually disappeared. It is now quite rare in Gaziantep. In earlier times some small villages grew the rose to prepare a jam from the fragrant petals.

In 1889 Paul Sintenis (1847–1907), the German plant collector and pharmacist, collected *R. beggeriana* at the village of Endepek in Harput (Nilsson 1972: 106). However, the village name Endepek is now not known to the inhabitants of Harput and the name probably has an Armenian origin. Prof. Turhan Baytop visited Harput on 2 June 2000 for the express purpose of seeing this rose. Together with colleagues, he visited the villages of Abuz, Alayaprak and Güllüköy including their immediate vicinities. Many gardens exist in this region which at an altitude of c. 1200 m, has a mild and pleasant climate. Families from Elazığ and Harput often come to the gardens to relax and enjoy their summer. With the help of the pharmacist Necmi Kuloğlu (who runs the pharmacy with the same name in Elazığ), they made the acquaintance of Abdülvahit Yaşar who kindly offered his vehicle as a means of transport. The guide on this occasion was Mehmet Bingöl, a helpful and knowledgeable 78 year old from Harput. He showed them several old roses including *Beyaz gül* (*R. × alba*), *Tevrizi gülü* (which they thought was *R. laxa*) and *Damla gülü* (*R. damascena*). These roses are found only in the gardens of Harput and do not grow wild. *Damla gülü* was once used for the distillation of an aromatic oil. Another rose shown was *Çardak gülü* (the trellis rose); this is a climbing rose with small red flowers. The only wild rose they saw on this excursion was *R. canina* which is known locally as *Çalı gülü* (the bush rose). Some of the gardens visited have "modern" roses (hybrid tea roses) and these were known as *Aşılı gül* (the grafted rose). Turhan Baytop was grateful to the owners of these gardens for their hospitality and kind reception. He was also indebted to Bayram Şengün (Elazığ) who provided information and samples of the roses grown in the gardens of Elazığ.

Unfortunately the rose they sought, the rose of Ahmediyye, was not found. The inhabitants of Elazığ, Harput, Gaziantep and Van in East Anatolia understood it as *Ahmediyye gülü* and this name was given only to the fragrant semi-double or double white-flowered forms which Turhan Baytop thought originated from hybrids of *R. alba* (Baytop 2001). The flowers of this rose are not sold by the pharmacists of Elazığ although it is known that the dried flowers have been used as a laxative in East Anatolia and added to scent mulberry-treacle. In the village of Abuz they found abundant populations of *Crataegus aronia* Bosc ex DC. var. *aronia*; this tree is known as *Misk alıcı*, re-

ferring to the musk-scented flowers. Although Turhan Baytop regretted they did not find *Ahmediyye gülü*, unknown to him he had actually seen it in the Harput gardens under the name *Tevrizi gülü* and had taken cuttings which later flowered in Istanbul; thus his journey to Harput was not in vain. This rose would later be the one to bear his name.

When we examined the available herbarium material and the photographs documenting Turhan Baytop's roses, we realised that two morphotypes of the rose exist. The one selected by T. Baytop for the front cover of his book (reproduced here as Fig. 1) and on p. 114, photo 23 (reproduced here as Fig. 2) has leaves which are uni- or bi-serrate,  $\pm$  glabrous and eglandular. The sepals are usually prolonged into a slender, up to c. 8 mm long dilated tip. The innermost staminodes of the flower have a golden-yellow longitudinal stripe, imparting an attractive orange glow to the flower centre. The stripe derives from the anthers which are orange or deep yellow in *R. beggeriana*. The filaments are white. The other morphotype (Fig. 3) is distinguished by its leaflets which are biserrate, glandular and pubescent on both surfaces. All petals and staminodes are milky-white, the sepals are much shorter, and may also extend into a long (but never dilated) tip. This rose is apparently only from Van and it is still flourishing on the balcony of Asuman Baytop's home in Istanbul where it flowers well after mild pruning. The two morphotypes clearly differ from each other but it should be noted that both roses were not separately distinguished by the local villagers in East Anatolia who named them *Ahmediyye gülü*, and as far as we know, Turhan Baytop was also unaware of the existence of the second rose.

We have now examined the available plants carefully and in our opinion they have a unique combination of characters meriting propagation in cultivation. We now wish to provide names and formal descriptions to recognize them as new and special cultivars. Unfortunately none of them could be named var. *harputensis* as they are not biological varieties but double-flowered sterile roses.



Fig. 1. *Rosa* 'Professor Turhan Baytop'.



Fig. 2. *Rosa* 'Professor Turhan Baytop'.



Fig. 3. *Rosa* 'Asuman'.



## Formal descriptions

### *Rosa* 'Professor Turhan Baytop', a new cultivar name

Shrub 1.5–3 m tall, climbing on walls. Long shoots greenish when young, glandular. Prickles on stem 1–2 at the nodes, to 4 mm long, rather strong, curved, laterally flattened, yellowish, 2–4 mm broad at the base. Leaves 5–7-foliolate. Leaflets elliptic-obovate to narrowly obovate, (1.5-) 2–4 cm, uni- or bi-serrate, green above, paler green beneath, eglandular, sparsely pubescent to subglabrous on both surfaces. Stipules oblong-lanceolate, 8–12 × 2 mm, with short auricles (1–2.5 mm), densely glandular-ciliate. Flowering branches usually unarmed, glabrous or sparsely patent-pilose. Inflorescences terminal, corymbose, solitary or 2–8-flowered. Bracts numerous, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, densely glandular at margins. Flowers double, cup-shaped, 2–3 cm in diameter, fragrant. Pedicels 1–3 cm, sparsely pilose, eglandular. Young hypanthium ovoid, 4–6 mm, glabrous to subglabrous. Sepals entire, triangular-lanceolate, longer than petals and with up to 8 mm tip, acuminate or spathulate-dilated at apex, tomentose-puberulent, eglandular. Outer petals white, broadly obovate, 8–16 mm long; inner petals staminodal, very numerous, innermost with golden-yellow longitudinal stripe, narrowly spathulate, 0.5–1.5 mm broad, with long slender white claw persistent after anthesis. Stamens absent. Styles free, shorter than petals, white-pubescent. Fruits not developed. *Flowering late May to August.*

Standard of cultivar: Turkey B7 Elazığ: Harput, village of Güllüköy, 1200 m, cultivated in garden, 5 June 2000, *T. Baytop* (ISTE 77 137). Figs. 1–2.

*Other specimens examined:* A2(A) Istanbul: Maltepe, T. Baytop's garden, cuttings originating from Van, 17 June 1998, *T. Baytop* (ISTE 75 161)! *loc. ibid.*, 19 May 2000, *T. Baytop* (ISTE 77 126)! B7 Elazığ: İzzet Paşa's home, August 1997, *F. Sayı* (ISTE 74 365). B9 Van: Edremit, Fahrettin Kürekçi's garden, 2 July 1998, *M. Koyuncu* (ISTE 75 168).

### *Rosa* 'Asuman', a new cultivar name

Shrub 1.5–2.5 m tall, climbing on walls. Long shoots greenish when young, densely pubescent at tips, glandular, distinctly pruinose. Prickles on stem paired at the nodes, large (3–8 mm),

rather strong, curved, laterally flattened, yellowish, 1–5 mm broad at the base. Leaves 5–9-foliolate, 3–12 cm long. Leaflets narrowly elliptic to narrowly obovate, 1–4 × 0.6–1.5 cm, biserrate, green above, paler green beneath, adpressed-pubescent and glandular on both surfaces. Stipules narrowly lanceolate, with short auricles (1–2 mm), pubescent and densely glandular. Flowering branches usually unarmed, ± pruinose, glabrous or sparsely patent-hairy. Inflorescences terminal, corymbose, solitary or 2–10-flowered. Bracts numerous, narrowly ovate-lanceolate, acuminate, densely glandular. Flowers double, cup-shaped, 2–3 cm in diameter, fragrant. Pedicels 1–3 cm, patent-hairy, eglandular. Young hypanthium ovoid, 5–7 mm, sparsely patent-hairy to subglabrous. Sepals entire, triangular-lanceolate, 7–10 mm, subacuminate or apiculate to 2–3 mm, not dilated at apex, pubescent. Outer petals white, broadly obovate, 13–20 × 9–15 mm, slightly retuse; inner petals staminodal, white, very numerous, narrowly spathulate, 1–2 mm broad, with long claw persistent after anthesis. Stamens absent. Styles free, c. 30, 5–7 mm, pubescent. Fruits not developed. *Flowering June to September.*

Standard of cultivar: Turkey A2 (E) Istanbul: Istanbul, Maçka, grown on balcony from cuttings originating from the province of Van, 15 July 2007, *A. Baytop* (ISTE 83 926)! Figs. 3–4.

*Other specimens examined:* A2(E) Istanbul: Istanbul, Maçka, grown on balcony from cuttings originating from province Van, 19 September 2007, *A. Baytop* (ISTE 83 927)!

B9 Van: in garden at Edremit, August 1997, *S. Bilgihan* (ISTE 74 358)! in garden at Van, 5 November 1997 (in fruit), *S. Bilgihan* (ISTE 74 736)!

*Rosa* 'Polstjärnan', developed in Finland, is another well-known double-flowered form of *R. beggeriana*. This is a vigorous shrub climbing to 4 or 5 m, with large, semi-double and weakly scented flowers, eglandular and glabrous leaves, brownish fruits with persistent sepals, etc. Unlike *Rosa* 'Professor Turhan Baytop' or *Rosa* 'Asuman' it bears no resemblance at all to the "true" *R. beggeriana* and most probably it is a complex hybrid (Shepherd 1954; Krüssmann 1974; Phillips & Rix 1988; Lolling 2009).

To discover whether the mulberry-treacle (*dut pekmezi*) was sold on a commercial scale, many shops in Istanbul were visited with the request. Not



Fig. 4. *Rosa* 'Asuman', with milky white petals and staminodes.

a single shop in Istanbul stocked it. We found that in Elazığ, a *pekmez* is prepared locally by villagers and sold in the market. Scented petals were added to the final product depending on the availability of the fragrant rose in their gardens.

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