



Phylogenetic position and taxonomic assignment of *Thlaspi aghricum* P.H.Davis & K.Tan (Brassicaceae)

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Abstract

A general review of the taxonomic status of *Thlaspi* past and present is given, and a critical evaluations of its segregates based on both morphological and molecular data are presented. ITS molecular phylogenetic study of *Thlaspi aghricum* and related species, as well as seed-coat morphology and anatomy strongly support the placement of the species in *Noccaea*. The new combination *N. aghrica* is proposed, and detailed description and distribution of the species are given.

Key words: Brassicaceae, Cruciferae, *Noccaea*, *Thlaspi*, seed

Introduction

The genus *Thlaspi* L. s.l. was once considered among the larger genera of Brassicaceae (Cruciferae) and consisted of approximately 75 species (Al-Shehbaz 1986). However, a radical revision of the genus was proposed by Meyer (1973, 1979) based almost solely on seed-coat anatomy. He relied on differences in the outer and inner epidermal cells of the outer integument and divided the genus into 12 genera and retained only six species in *Thlaspi* s.str. The taxonomic status of Meyer's segregates was completely rejected (Greuter *et al.* 1986), partially accepted (Al-Shehbaz 2002, 2012), or completely accepted (Czerepanov 1995). Furthermore, Meyer's segregates were subjected to several molecular studies (e.g., Mummenhoff & Koch 1994; Koch & Mummenhoff 2001; Khosravi *et al.* 2008) that demonstrated the monophyly of some of them and polyphyly of others.

More recent works (e.g., Al-Shehbaz *et al.* 2006; Bailey *et al.* 2006; Koch *et al.* 2007; Couvreur *et al.* 2010; Warwick *et al.* 2010, 2011) clearly demonstrated that *Thlaspi* s.str., belongs to the tribe Thlaspidiae (expanded lineage II), *Noccidium* F.K.Mey. to the Camelinae (lineage I), and the remaining segregates to the Noccaeeae (hereafter Coluteocarpeae) (expanded lineage II). These findings fully agree with the latest available data currently available on BrassiBase, an up-to-date database on the Brassicaceae (Kiefer *et al.* 2014; Koch *et al.* 2012; Koch & German 2013). Finally, Al-Shehbaz (2012) suggested that all *Thlaspi* segregates, except for *Noccidium* and *Thlaspi* s.str., should be subsumed under genus *Noccaea* Moench, but their species then were not formally transferred to the latter genus, though they have recently been proposed (Al-Shehbaz 2014). The lack of both morphological and molecular data to support *Noccaea* as consistently distinct from Meyer's (1973, 1979) segregates of *Thlaspi* led us to adopt a generic concept for *Noccaea* broader than Meyer's. Therefore, the discussions hereafter will deal with *Noccaea* sensu Al-Shehbaz (2012, 2014).

Many species previously assigned to *Thlaspi*, including *T. aghricum* P.H.Davis & K.Tan (Fig. 1), remained unstudied molecularly to determine their tribal affiliation and generic status. This East Anatolian endemic was originally known from only two localities in Ağrı Province, but a third-locality from Siirt Province is added herein. Davis and Tan (in Davis *et al.* 1988) considered *T. aghricum* to be closely related to *T. lilacinum* Boiss. & A.Huet, a species transferred by Meyer (1973, 1979) to *Callothlaspi* F.K.Mey.

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APPENDIX I

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