CROCUS YAKARIENSIS

Crocus yakarianus Sp. Nov. from eastern Turkey Yıldırım & O. Erol

Abstract: Crocus yakarianus Yıldırım & O. Erol (Iridaceae) is described as a new species. Diagnostic morphological characteristics, descriptions and detailed illustrations are given on the basis of the type material. Crocus yakarianus is restricted to the province of Malatya in eastern Anatolia, Turkey. It is related to and compared with Crocus biflorus subsp. tauri (Maw) B. Mathew.

Named for the late professor Nebahat Yakar (1915 – 1997) who was a well-known botanist in the field of plant morphology and anatomy in Turkey (Istanbul Univ.) and who was a pioneer of botanical illustration in Turkey.

Description from paper: Corm globose-ovate, 8 – 18 mm in diameter, 10 – 18 mm long. Tunics mostly coriaceous, splitting into rings at base.

Neck short, c. 3 – 5 mm. Cataphylls 3 – 4, silvery white, yellowish – green at apex. Leaves prominent before anthesis, shorter to longer than flowers at anthesis, 3 – 8 (–9), green, 1.2 – 2.8 (–3.0) mm in diameter, with two prominent ribs underneath. White stripe normally distinctly wider than 1/3 of leaf diameter. Throat of perianth white with pale yellow suffusions, glabrous. Perianth tube white with blue speckles. Outer perianth segments 21 – 29 ? 5 – 9 mm; inner segments 19 – 27 ? 5 – 9 mm; all segments uniformly white inside or rarely with very light blue without markings, the outside of the outer segments light blue striped with yellow zones between the stripes on a white ground. Prophyll absent. Bract and bracteole present, silvery white, skinny, and very conspicuous. Filaments 5 – 9 mm long, white, glabrous at base; anthers yellow, 7 – 11 mm; connective colorless, thick and very prominent. Pollen yellow. Style yellow without exception, mostly shorter to equal compared to the stamens, divided into 3 branches; branches 3.5 – 6.5 mm, glabrous. Capsule and seeds not seen. Chromosome number 2n ? 14.
Distribution and habitat Crocus yakarianus is endemic to eastern Anatolia and is part of the Irano–Turanian element. It is distributed on open slopes of the mountain facing north and northeast. Crocus yakarianus differs from the other members of the C. biflorus complex by its leaves, which are 3 – 8 (– 9) in number and very prominent before anthesis, and, in addition, they are wider than usual, 1.2 – 2.8 (– 3.0) mm. The outside of the outer segments has light blue stripes and yellow zones in between. Crocus yakarianus is morphologically most closely related to C. biflorus subsp. tauri (Maw) B. Mathew.