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***Saponaria jagelii*, a new species from the island of Elafonisos (Peloponnisos, Greece)**

**Abstract**

Phitos, D. & Greuter, W.: *Saponaria jagelii*, a new species from the island of Elafonisos (Peloponnisos, Greece). — Fl. Medit. 3: 277-278. 1993. — ISSN 1120-4052.

A new, annual species belonging to the *Saponaria calabrica* group, is described. It can be recognized by its dwarf, succulent habit and also by seed characters, and has a peculiar ecology, being found very locally on sandy beaches of a small offshore island and the opposite mainland.

During our study of the genus *Saponaria* (*Caryophyllaceae*) in the framework of the "Flora Hellenica" project (Phitos, in prep.), it became evident that *Saponaria* specimens collected by Mr. A. Jagel (Bochum) on the small island of Elafonisos and referred to by their collector as "*Saponaria calabrica* Guss." (Jagel, unpublished diploma thesis, Ruhr University Bochum) belong to a new species, described hereafter.

***Saponaria jagelii* Phitos & Greuter, sp. nova** — Typus: Nomos Lakonias, Ep. Epidavrou-Limiras, Ins. Elafonisos, in arenosis littoreis ad occidentem insulae spectantibus (36°29'N 22°56'E), 24.3.1993, D. Phitos & al. 23209 (UPA; isotypi: B, PAL). — Fig. 1

Planta annua, 3-10 cm alta. Caules erecto-ascendentes, validi, dichotome ramosi, rubescentes, inferne subglabri, superne glanduloso-pilosi. Folia lanceolata vel oblanceolata, crassa; inferioria et media glabra, margine interdum ciliata, in petiolum latum gradatim angustata, 1-4.5 cm longa et 0.5-1 cm lata, viridi-rubentia; superiora sessilia, interdum parce glanduloso-pilosa. Pedicelli calyce breviores, fructiferi erecti vel erecto-patuli. Calyx cylindricus, rubescens, glanduloso-pilosus, 7-10 mm longus, dentibus breviter ovatis, obtusis. Petalorum lamina rosea, basi alba, integra, obovato-spathulata, basin versus gradatim angustata, appendicibus binis oblongis. Capsula subcylindrica. Semina globosa, minutissime tuberculata, 1.0-1.2 mm diametro.

Affinis *Saponariae calabrae*, a qua foliis crassis, lanceolatis vel oblanceolatis, majoribus, lamina petalorum obovato-spathulata, praesertim autem seminibus minoribus, minutissime tuberculatis manifeste differt.

Adding to the above cited distinctive morphological features, *Saponaria jagelii* also occupies a very characteristic habitat: it grows on a sandy sea-shore together with *Ammophila arenaria* Link, *Euphorbia paralias* L., *Medicago marina* L., *Silene sedoides* Poir., etc., whereas *S. calabrica* occurs on rocky slopes and in waste places, at altitudes

between 50 and 1500(-2000) m. According to G. Iatroú (pers. comm.) the new taxon has also been observed along the sandy coasts of the mainland facing Elafonisos, on the Malea Peninsula (Peloponnisos), the distance between the island and the mainland being approximately 600 m.

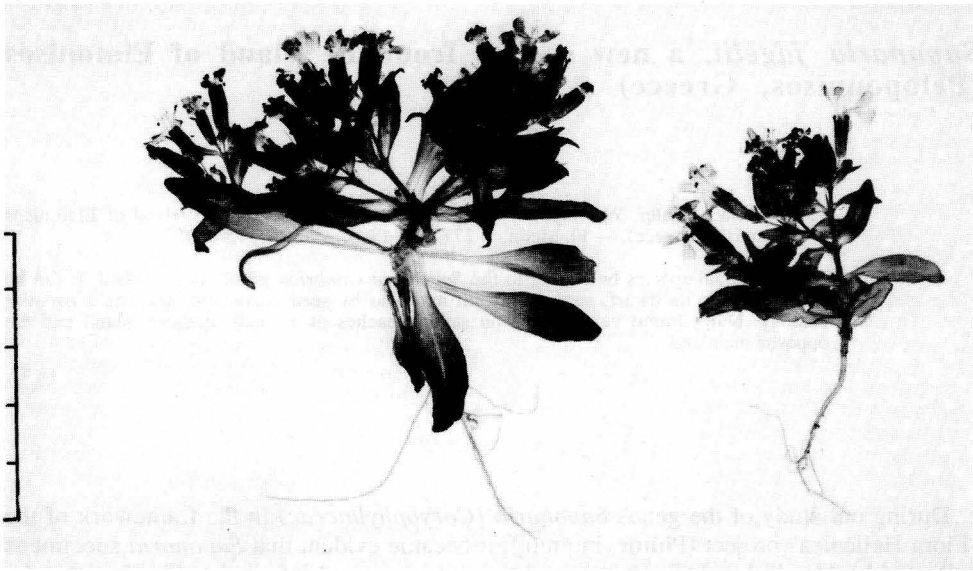


Fig. 1. *Saponaria jagelii*, two plants from the type gathering. (Scale bar = 5 cm).

*Specimens seen.* — Griechenland, Peloponnes, Lakonien, Elafonisos. Sandstrand im SW, 13.4.1991, A. Jagel s.n. (UPA, Herb. A. Jagel); ibid., Strand SSW, 7.3.1991, A. Jagel s.n. (B, Herb. A. Jagel); Nomos Lakonias, Ep. Epidavrou-Limiras, Ins. Elafonisos, in arenosis littoreis ad occidentem insulae spectantibus (36°29'N 22°56'E), 24.3.1993, D. Phitos & al. 23209 (B, PAL, UPA).

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