

Studies on the flora of Jordan : 8. New and noteworthy plants

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Studies on the flora of Jordan 8. New and noteworthy plants

LOUTFY BOULOS & DAWUD AL-EISAWI

Résumé

Boulos, L. & D. Al-Eisawi (1977). Etude de la flore de Jordanie 8. Plantes nouvelles ou remarquables. *Candollea* 32: 269-276. En anglais.

Le genre *Prenanthes* et les espèces *P. suberosa*, *Astragalus macrocephalus*, *Trigonella lunata*, *Hordeum geniculatum*, *Silene makmeliana* et *Scandix turgida* sont à ajouter à la flore de Jordanie. Des stations supplémentaires sont indiquées pour *Ducrosia flabellifolia* et *Roemeria procumbens*, et un nouveau comptage chromosomique pour la première espèce.

Abstract

Boulos, L. & D. Al-Eisawi (1977). Studies on the flora of Jordan 8. New and noteworthy plants. *Candollea* 32: 269-276. French abstract.

The genus *Prenanthes* and the species *P. suberosa*, *Astragalus macrocephalus*, *Trigonella lunata*, *Hordeum geniculatum*, *Silene makmeliana*, and *Scandix turgida* are new records for the flora of Jordan. Additional localities are given for *Ducrosia flabellifolia* and *Roemeria procumbens*, and a new chromosome count for the former.

The present paper reports 1 genus and 5 species as new to the flora of Jordan. Two other species, of rare occurrence, are recorded from new localities. Specimens of these plants are deposited in the Herbarium, Faculty of Science, University of Jordan, Amman, Jordan.

1. *Prenanthes suberosa* (Zohary & Davis) Boulos (*Compositae*), genus new to the flora of Jordan.
= *Sonchus suberosus* Zohary & Davis

This species was described from specimens collected by *Davis & Kushin*, D. 5003, 28 November 1942, from Wadi Haritun, S.E. of Bethlehem, altitude 610 m, on hard limestone cliffs facing N.E.-N.W. The plant was co-dominant in vertical crevices with *Centaurea eryngioides* Lam.

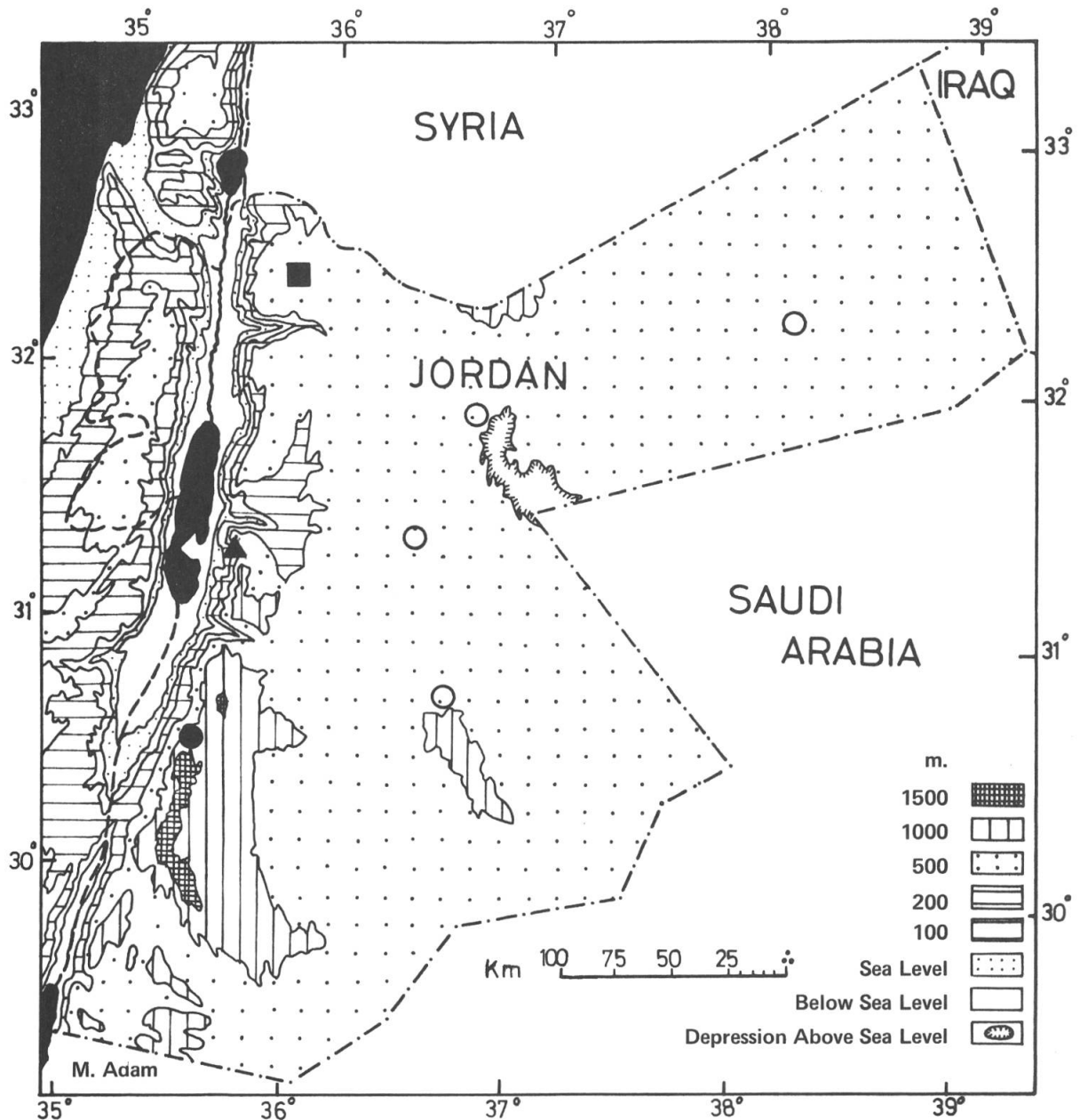


Fig. 1. — Distribution in Jordan of *Ducrosia flabellifolia* ○; *Trigonella lunata* ■; *Astragalus macrocephalus* ●; *Prenanthes suberosa* ▲.

Prenanthes suberosa was collected for the first time in Jordan from 16 km N.W. of Karak, along the road to the Dead Sea, 2 December 1973, Boulos 5800 (see map, fig. 1). The plant was in full flower, and was abundant in crevices between limestone rocks, in association with *Centaurea eryngioides* Lam.

The 2 localities, in Palestine and Jordan, seem to be ecologically very similar. The plant was known to be endemic to Palestine, particularly near the northern tip of the Dead Sea. The area in which our species was discovered in Jordan, viz. N.E.

of the southern tip of the Dead Sea, is only some 50 km straight-line distance across the Dead Sea from the locality where it was first discovered in Palestine.

2. *Astragalus macrocephalus* Willd. (*Leguminosae*), det. C. C. Townsend, species new to the flora of Jordan.

Zohary (1972) did not mention this species among other species of *Astragalus* known in Palestine and Jordan.

Flowering and fruiting specimens were collected 5 km N. of Shaubak, along the road to Tafila, 23 June 1975, *Al-Eisawi 2093* (see map, fig. 1).

3. *Trigonella lunata* Boiss. (*Leguminosae*), det. C. C. Townsend, species new to the flora of Jordan.

According to Zohary (1972), this species was not previously known in Palestine or Jordan. The plant is, however, known in Iraq (see Townsend 1974).

One fruiting specimen was collected 11 km N. of Jarash, along the road to Irbid, 26 April 1975, *Boulos, Jallad & Lahham 8273*, (see map, fig. 1).

4. *Hordeum geniculatum* All. (*Gramineae*), det. S. A. Renvoize, species new to the flora of Jordan.

This species was not mentioned by Post & Dinsmore (1933) among other species of *Hordeum* known in Syria, Palestine and Sinai, and as far as the authors are aware, it was not previously collected in Jordan. However, the plant is known in Iraq (see Bor 1968).

Flowering and fruiting specimens were collected from Azraq Oasis, in the vicinity of the hot spring, 25 April 1974, *Boulos, Jallad, Lahham & Ismail 7032* (see map, fig. 2).

5. *Silene makmeliana* Boiss. (*Caryophyllaceae*), species new to the flora of Jordan.

This species is known from Syria and Lebanon (see Post & Dinsmore 1932, and Rechinger 1959). Mouterde (1966) considered the species endemic to Syria and Lebanon. Zohary (1966) did not list it among other *Silene* species known from Palestine and Jordan.

Flowering and fruiting specimens were collected 7 km E. of Al-Hemma, S.E. of Lake Tiberius, 13 May 1976, *Täckholm, El-Hadidi, Lahham & Boulos 8900* (see map, fig. 2). Our locality is not far from the Syrian boundary.

6. *Scandix turgida* (Boiss. & Blanche) Boiss. (*Umbelliferae*), species new to the flora of Jordan.

Zohary (1972) did not list this species among the *Scandix* species known from Palestine and Jordan. According to Mouterde (1970), the only areas in which this

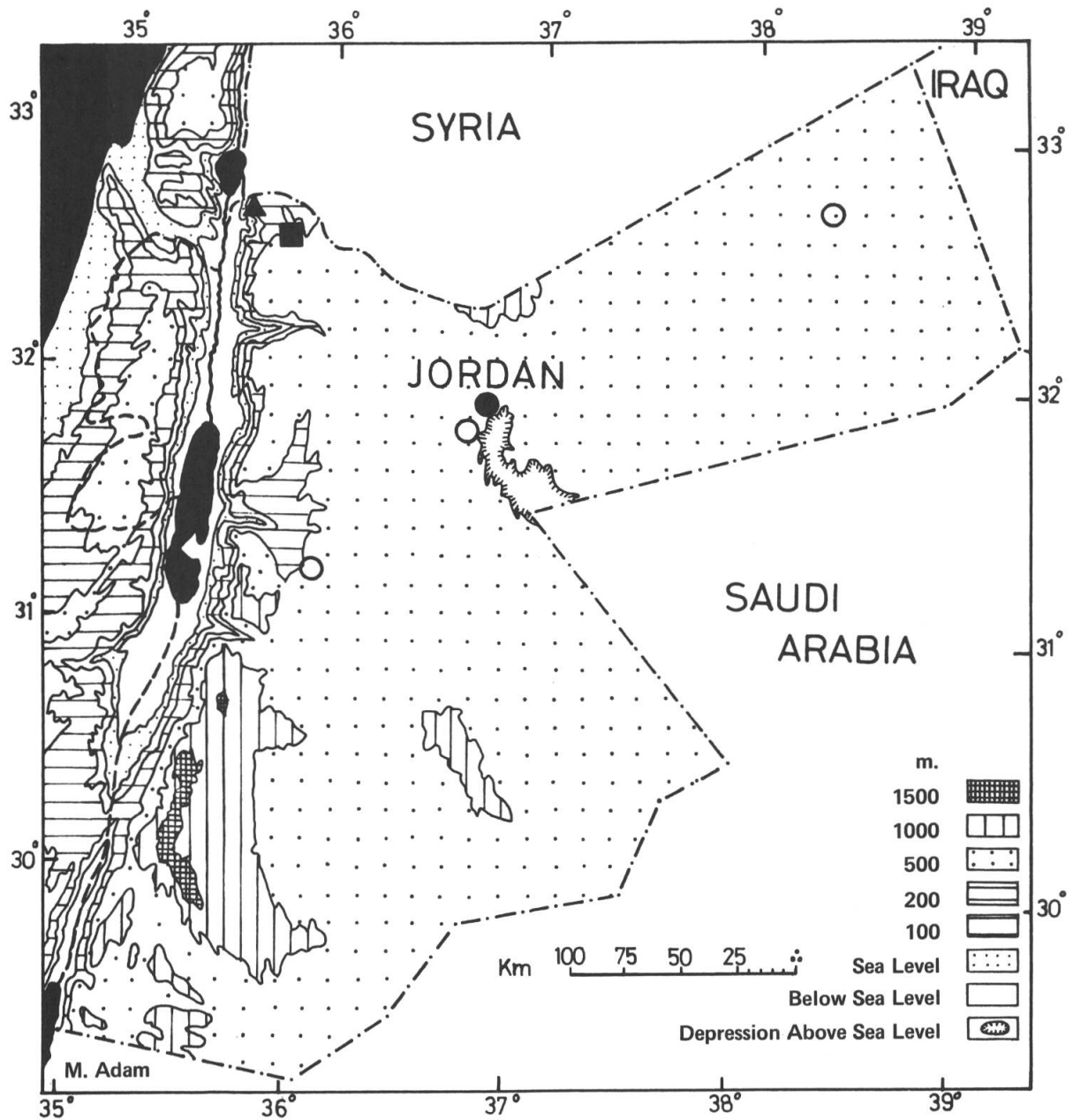


Fig. 2. — Distribution in Jordan of *Hordeum geniculatum* ●; *Silene makmeliana* ▲; *Scandix turgida* ■; *Roemeria procumbens* ○.

species is known are “Cilicie” in southern Turkey and “Alep” in northern Syria, which lie near to each other. Mouterde (l.c.) used the name *Cyclotaxis turgida* Boiss., and considered *Scandix turgida* a synonym. Flowering and fruiting specimens were collected from Bishra, 6 km N.E. of Irbid, 26 April 1975, Boulos, Jallad & Lahham 8214 (see map, fig. 2).

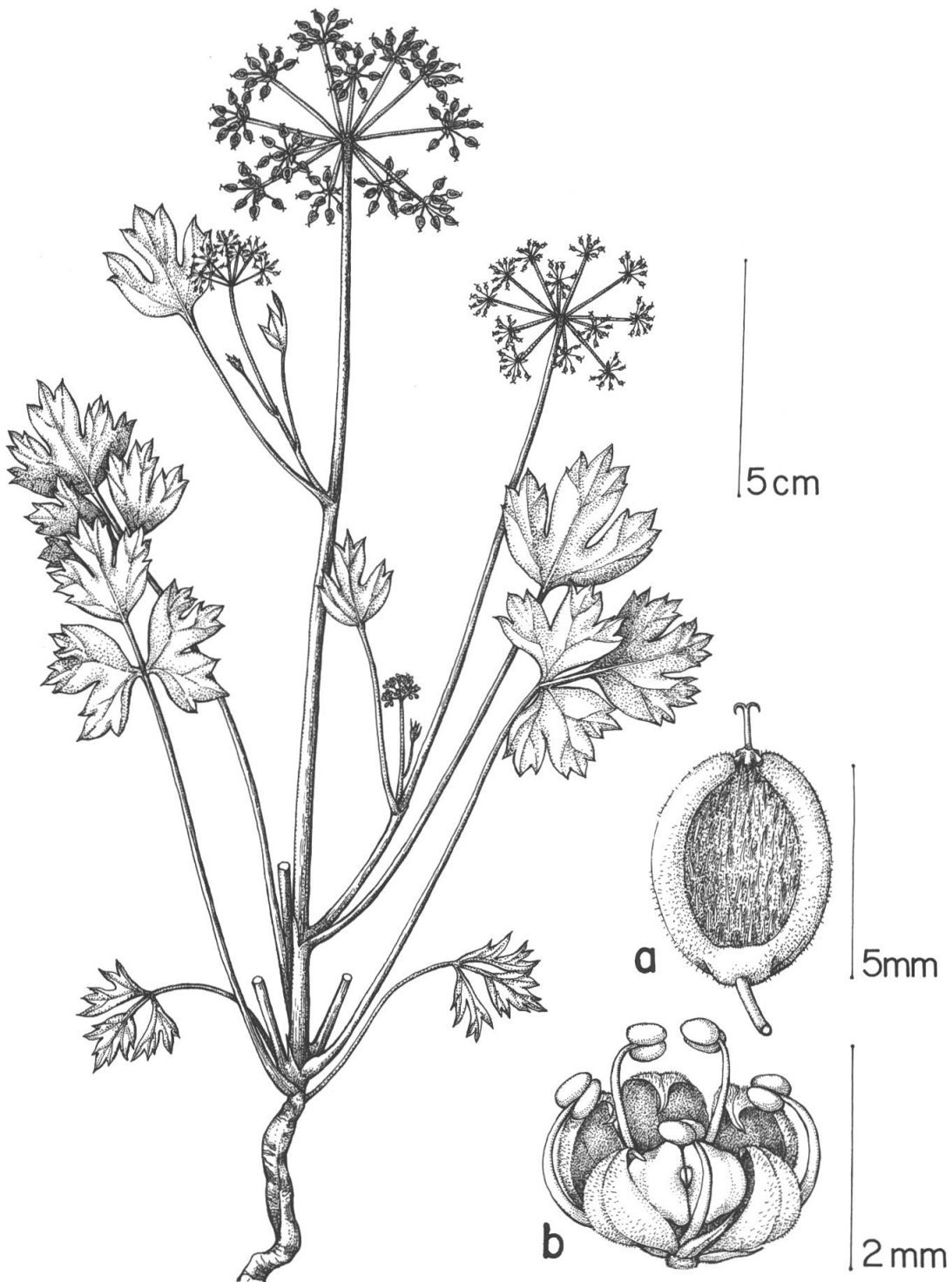


Fig. 3. – *Ducrosia flabellifolia*.
a: fruit; b: flower.

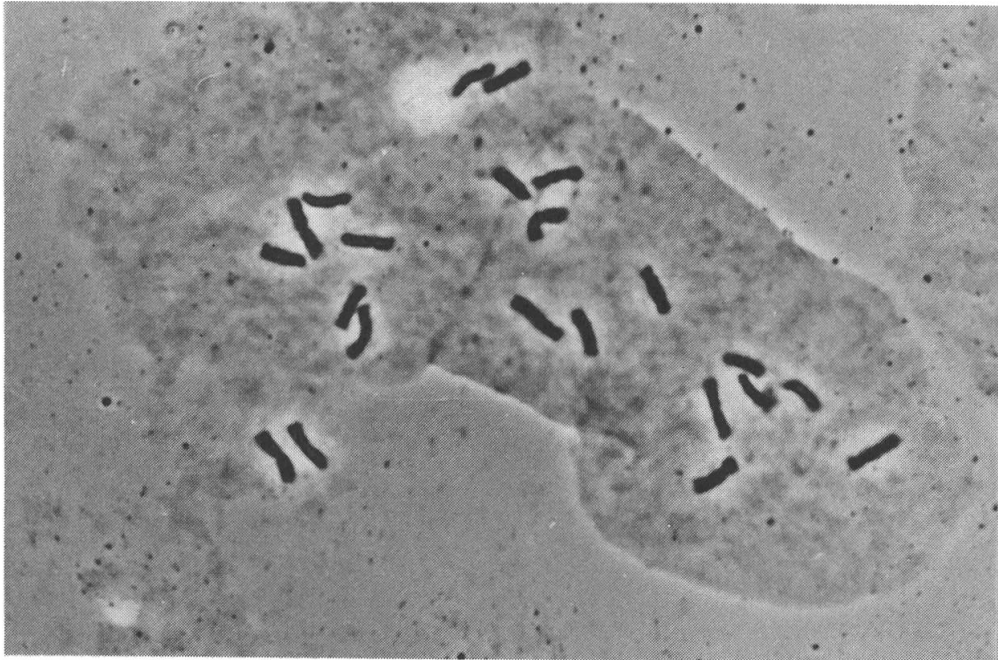


Fig. 4. — *Ducrosia flabellifolia*.
Metaphase plate, $2n = 22$ (640 x).

7. *Ducrosia flabellifolia* Boiss. (*Umbelliferae*). $2n = 22$ (new chromosome count, see fig. 3 and 4).

This species, like the genus *Ducrosia* Boiss., was not listed among other *Umbelliferae* by Zohary (1972). Alava (1975) does not include Jordan within the geographical area of the species, which he defines as Assyrian desert, Iraq and Iran. However, Mouterde (1970) writes: "Trouvé récemment à diverses reprises en Iraq et Transjordanie," without naming the localities where it was recently found in Jordan; but he gives the locality "Ouadi Butum, Jordanie" for the fruits drawn in Pl. CCCXVIII-2.

Ducrosia flabellifolia was observed by C. C. Townsend (personal communication) in Azraq Oasis, but no specimens were collected. A photograph of the plant is deposited in the Kew transparency collection. The occurrence of *Ducrosia flabellifolia* in Jordan, therefore, needed further support. Moreover, the recent work of Alava (1975), dealing in some detail with the genus *Ducrosia*, gives no mention of its occurrence in Jordan. The authors and other collectors were able to record *Ducrosia flabellifolia* from the following localities in Jordan (see map, fig. 1.): Wadi Ruweishid, 12 km E. of H-4, 11 April 1974 (old inflorescence), Boulos, Jallad & Lahham 6932. — 19 km N. of Qasr Tuba, 6 November 1975 (old inflorescence), Boulos 8431. — Bayir, c. 65 km N.E. of El Jafr, 9 April 1975 (ster.), Nayef Mohammed 7998. — Wadi Bayir, 1.5 km below Bayir Police Station, 900 m, 1 May 1976 (fl. buds), Boulos, Addiss & Qumsiyeh 8678. — Wadi Bayir, 1 km below Bayir Police Station, 900 m, 2 May 1976 (fl. buds), Boulos, Addiss & Qumsiyeh 8717. — 2-3 km W. of Azraq Oasis, 19 June 1975 (fl., fr.), Al-Eisawi 1999.



Fig. 5. — *Roemeria procumbens*.

8. *Roemeria procumbens* Aaronsohn & Oppenheimer (*Papaveraceae*).

This rare species was collected from the following localities: Wadi Risha, 54 km N.E. of H-4, 11 April 1974 (fl., fr.), *Boulos, Jallad & Lahham 6965*. — Azraq Oasis, in the vicinity of the hot spring, 25 April 1974 (fr.), *Boulos, Jallad, Lahham & Ismail 7033*. — Vicinity of Qasr 'Amra, Azraq Oasis area, 25 April 1974 (fl., fr.), *Boulos, Jallad, Lahham & Ismail 7062*. — 4 km S. of Qatrana, along the road to Aqaba, 4 April 1974 (fl., fr.), *Boulos, Jallad & Lahham 6581* (see fig. 5, and map, fig. 2).

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