



Two alien species of Asteraceae new to Uzbekistan (Bukhara oasis)

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Summary. Asteraceae is one of the most diverse plant families in Central Asia, and in Uzbekistan in particular. In Uzbekistan, there are 598 species of Asteraceae which comprise 15 % of the flora of the country. Seventy species of the family have been recorded from the Bukhara oasis in the south-western part of Uzbekistan, which makes it the greatest family by the number of species. Two alien species of Asteraceae were found as new to Uzbekistan. *Erigeron bonariensis* L., which has been presumably recently introduced, was observed with a limited number of populations, whereas *Symphotrichum graminifolium* (Spreng.) G. L. Nesom is considered expanding invasive species. The present condition and distribution patterns of these species in the Bukhara oasis of Uzbekistan are described.

Два чужеродных вида Asteraceae, новых для Узбекистана (Бухарский оазис)

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Ключевые слова: адвентивные виды растений, Бухарский оазис, распространение, *Erigeron*, *Symphotrichum*.

Аннотация. Asteraceae является одним из самых многовидовых семейств растений в Средней Азии и, в том числе, в Узбекистане. В Узбекистане насчитывается 598 видов сем. Asteraceae, что составляет 15 % от флоры страны. В Бухарском оазисе, расположенном в юго-западной части Узбекистана, зарегистрировано семьдесят видов сложноцветных, что делает данное семейство ведущим по числу представителей в регионе. Недавно здесь были впервые найдены два чужеродных вида астровых, оказавшихся новыми для Узбекистана. *Erigeron bonariensis* L., который, предположительно, был занесен недавно, наблюдался в ограниченном числе популяций, тогда как *Symphotrichum graminifolium* (Spreng.) G. L. Nesom встречался гораздо чаще и в большем обилии. Описаны современное состояние и закономерности распространения этих видов в Бухарском оазисе Узбекистана.

Asteraceae Dumort., one of the biggest families among flowering plants, includes 32913 species belonging to 1911 genera in the Earth (The Plant List, 2013). Asteraceae is one of the leading families in Central Asia, as well as in Uzbekistan. There are 598 species in Uzbekistan which comprise 15 % of the flora of the country (Vvedensky, 1962). With seventy species observed in the Bukhara oasis, south-western Uzbekistan, Asteraceae is the leading family by the number of species (Esanov, Aslonova, 2015). This family is also remarkable in numerous alien species. During the field research made in 2007–2015, we discovered two further species of Asteraceae which had not been previously recorded in Uzbekistan or even the whole of Central Asia, i. e. in *Erigeron* L. and *Symphotrichum* Nees.

There are more than 476 species of the genus *Erigeron* worldwide (The Plant List, 2013). In Central Asia 35 species have been recorded (Tulyaganova, 1993), and 25 of them have been known from Uzbekistan (Bondarenko, 1962). Until the present study only one species of the genus, *Erigeron canadensis* L., has been known from the whole territory of the Uzbekistan. During the field study carried out in 2014–2015, a second species, namely *Erigeron bonariensis* L. belonging to *E.* sect. *Caenotus* Nutt., was discovered.

The genus *Symphotrichum* embraces ca. 90 species in the world with the North American native area (Chen, Brouillet, 2011). In the beginning and the middle of the 20th century *Symphotrichum graminifolium* was not known in Central Asia, and no species of this genus had been reported from Uzbekistan. However, two species of the genus (as *Conyza graminifolia* and *C. squamata*) were included in the “Conspectus florae Asiae Mediae” (Tulyaganova, 1993), and our study also proved that *Symphotrichum graminifolium* is common in Uzbekistan. *Symphotrichum graminifolium* is reported for the first time from Uzbekistan.

From the botanical-geographical perspective, Bukhara oasis is located in the Kyzylkum district in the lower part of the Zarafshan river and belongs to Turon province (Tojibaev et al., 2016). The area of the oasis is 2870 km². Bukhara oasis is part of Bukhara region of the Republic of Uzbekistan. It is surrounded by sandy deserts. Natural climatic conditions are indicative of the arid climate, which corresponds to its geographical location. Its climate is dry and hot in summer and cold in winter. The amount of precipitation is very low, 90–150 mm per year on average (Nazarov, Allayorov, 1994). The study area includes natural and artificial landscapes

which have been formed due to the conversion of desert areas into croplands.

Bukhara city is situated in the center of Bukhara oasis. This city is included into the famous cities of the world with its ancient monuments of Uzbekistan. More than 10000 tourists visit this city around the year, which is included in the List of World Heritage Sites of UNESCO. They are considered as carriers of invasive plants which may come into the flora.

The material was collected during the regular field research in the period of 2007–2015. According to pre-planned routes all the territories of Bukhara oasis including natural and artificial landscapes have been covered. During the latest years more than 2000 herbarium specimens from Bukhara oasis have been collected and identified in Central Herbarium of Uzbekistan (TASH). For taxonomic identifications the following sources were used: “Flora of the USSR” (Botschantsev, 1959; Tamamshyan, 1959), “Flora of Uzbekistan” (Bondarenko, 1962; Vvedensky, 1962), “Conspectus florae Asiae Mediae” (Tulyaganova, 1993). The main set of herbarium specimens was deposited in the Central Herbarium (TASH). Duplicates are kept in the Herbarium of Bukhara State University. Species nomenclature follows The Plant List (The Plant List, 2013) and additional literature sources dealing with the Bukhara oasis (Guzairov, 1968).

Results

***Erigeron bonariensis* Linnaeus, 1753, Sp. Pl. 2: 863.**

Described from South America: “America australi”. Lectotype (D’Arcy, 1975, in Woodson & Schery (ed.), Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 62: 1021): LINN 994.11.

It is native to South America and naturalized in: Africa, Asia-temperate, Asia-tropical, Australasia, North America, Pacific, South America, North Europe, Middle Europe (Ciortan, Negrean, 2012). Currently it widely expands its secondary distribution areas in North America (Mexico, California), Central America and the Caribbean (Jamaica), Europe, and is registered as a globally invasive species (NGRP, 2015); widely distributed as a weed in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, exotic. *Erigeron bonariensis* occurs typically on waste land, around field edges, roadsides, in fallows and in orchards, in both tropical and subtropical regions, and to some extent in temperate zones. The new alien species occurs in inhabited areas, along ditches, abandoned places, in alfalfa fields in the oasis. According to

our research in the studied areas, the species occurs as 3–16 individuals in 10 m² area. In Uzbekistan its populations are known from two localities: in Bukhara city and in Karaulbazar district (Fig. 3).

Studied specimens: “Bukhara oasis, Bukhara city, Piridasgir street, along the road, Lucerne field; 210 m. 40°07'01.1"N, 64°17'59.9"E. 04 X 2015. H. Esanov, № 510” (TASH; Fig. 1); “Bukhara region. Karaulbazar district, Fergana Street. Alfalfa field, 246 m. 38°49'00.0"N, 65°16'60.0"E. 05 X 2015. H. Esanov, № 514” (TASH).

Note. *Erigeron bonariensis* is very close to *Erigeron canadensis*, but they differ from each other in a several morphological characters. *Erigeron bonariensis* is similar to *E. canadensis* in its stem, branching, rough hairs, tape-like shape of the leaves, numerous capitula. Dissimilar characters are: in *E. bonariensis* hairs on the stem are very dense, lower leaves saw-toothed, inflorescence wide paniculate, capitula 6 mm long, 11 mm wide, inner involucre leaves 4.5 mm long, 0.7 mm wide, ligulate flowers 0.3 mm long, disc flowers five-toothed, pappus 4 mm long; in *E. canadensis* hairs on the stem are not dense, lower leaves minutely saw-toothed, inflorescence narrowly paniculate, capitula 4.5–5 mm long, 8 mm wide, inner involucre leaves 3.5 mm long, 0.3 mm wide, ligulate flowers 0.5–1.0 mm long, disc flowers four-toothed, pappus 2.5–3.0 mm long.

Erigeron bonariensis was not found during extensive field surveys in the whole territory of the oasis (including Bukhara city and Karaulbazar district) conducted between 2007 and 2013. It is very likely that the plant arrived in the last three years but the means of its transportation to the area remains unknown. This species is found throughout the tropics and subtropics as a pioneer plant. *Erigeron bonariensis* according to the current literature (Botschantsev, 1959; Bondarenko, 1962; Tulyaganova, 1993) has never been reported from Central Asia. In the study area it was found with a few populations. For the first time this species has been discovered along roadsides, in plantations and abandoned areas.

Symphyotrichum graminifolium (Spreng.) G. L. Nesom, 1995, *Phytologia* 77: 283. – *Conyza graminifolia* Spreng. 1826, *Syst. Veg.* 3: 515. – *Conyzanthus graminifolius* (Spreng.) Tamamsch. 1959, *Fl. URSS* 25: 186.

Described from Uruguay: “Monte Video. Sello”. Type: “Monte Video. Sello 567” (P 00834826).

Native to the South America. In the secondary areas (South America (Argentina), North Africa and Arabian Peninsula) plants are found in inhabited places, in gardens, along ditches and roads, on fields and abandoned lands, in flowerbeds. In Uzbekistan the species has been spread all over the territory of Bukhara oasis. Initially this plant was collected from Peshku district of the oasis and was found in all territory of the oasis. Mostly observed in damp places (Fig. 2a). It was found in 10–15 individuals in 10 m².

Studied specimens: “Bukhara oasis, Peshku district, alongside the irrigation ditch, 214 m. 40.116°N, 64.3°E. 7 X 2007. H. Esanov. № 150” (TASH); “Bukhara oasis, Bukhara city, Prospects Navoi, alongside the irrigation ditch, croplands, 224 m. 40°15'00.1"N, 64°42'00.0"E. 14 IX 2015. H. Esanov. № 511” (TASH; Fig. 2b).

Note. Genus *Symphyotrichum* Nees is native to North America (Brouillet et al., 2006). *Symphyotrichum graminifolium* has been reported as an alien plant from several European countries (Korniyenko, Mosyakin, 2006; Mayorov et al., 2012). In the territory of Central Asia it has been previously found only in the suburbs of Khojand city in Tajikistan (Tulyaganova, 1993). Our record is new to Uzbekistan.

During the years of 2007–2015 the distribution area and populations of *S. graminifolium* in Bukhara were extended. The expansion of the species in the oasis is connected to the habitat conditions (damp places, plantations, irrigated territories, biotic and anthropogenic factors) and as well as to easy and rapid dispersal of its seeds.

Based on the collected data a map on the distribution of the two species on the territory of Uzbekistan has been generated (Fig. 3).

Discussion

The paper reports the presence and naturalization of *Erigeron bonariensis* and *Symphyotrichum graminifolium* as alien plants in Uzbekistan, Bukhara oasis.

Of these alien species, *Symphyotrichum graminifolium* has a clear tendency to spread further, and may become a new invasive species in Uzbekistan. Further dedicated specialized studies, such as assessment of the impact by using standard scoring systems (Nentwig et al., 2016; Russell, Blackburn, 2017), are needed to monitor the activity of these species in order to reduce their negative impact on the country's nature and agriculture.



Fig. 1. Herbarium specimen of *Erigeron bonariensis* from Bukhara city (TASH).

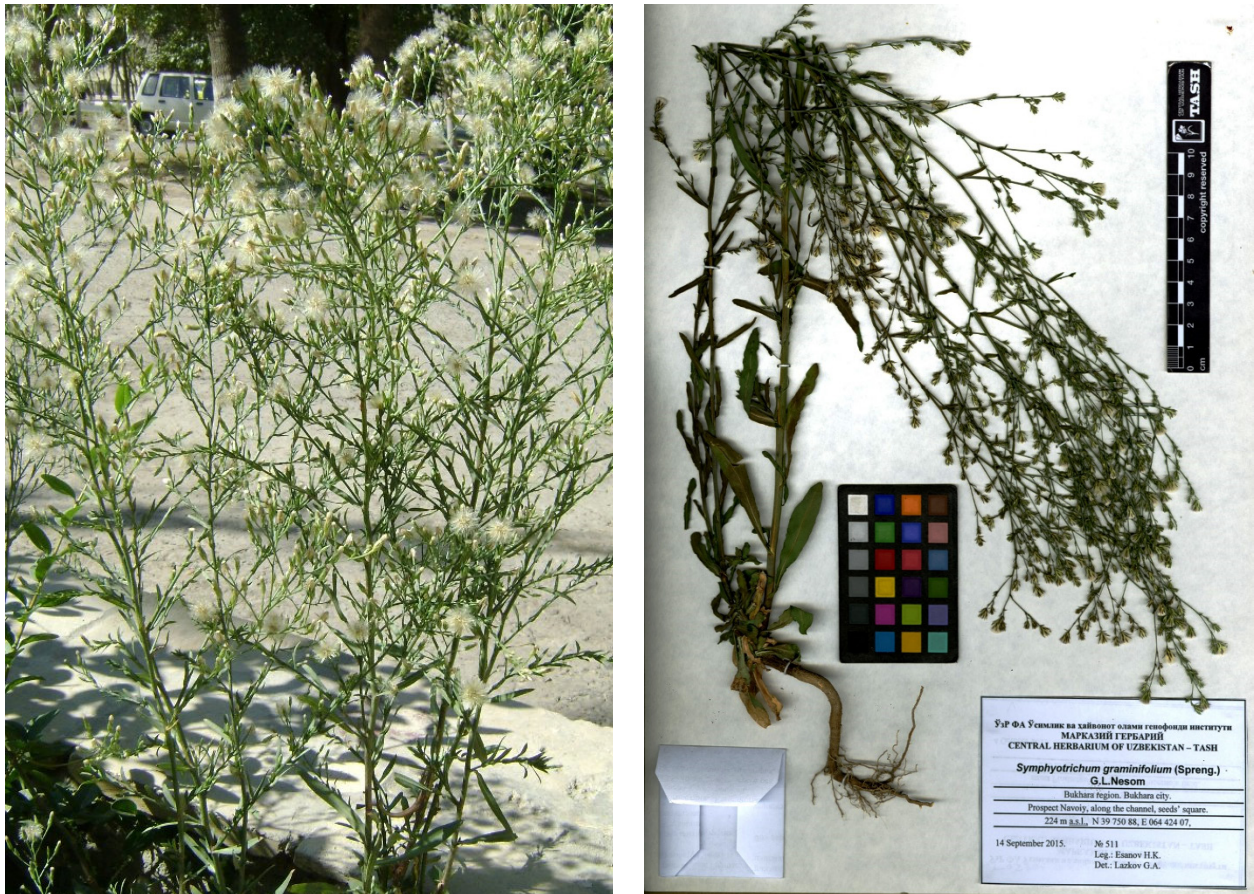


Fig. 2. Habitus of *Symphyotrichum graminifolium*: a – Bukhara city, Navoi avenue (Photo by Esanov); b – herbarium specimen (TASH).

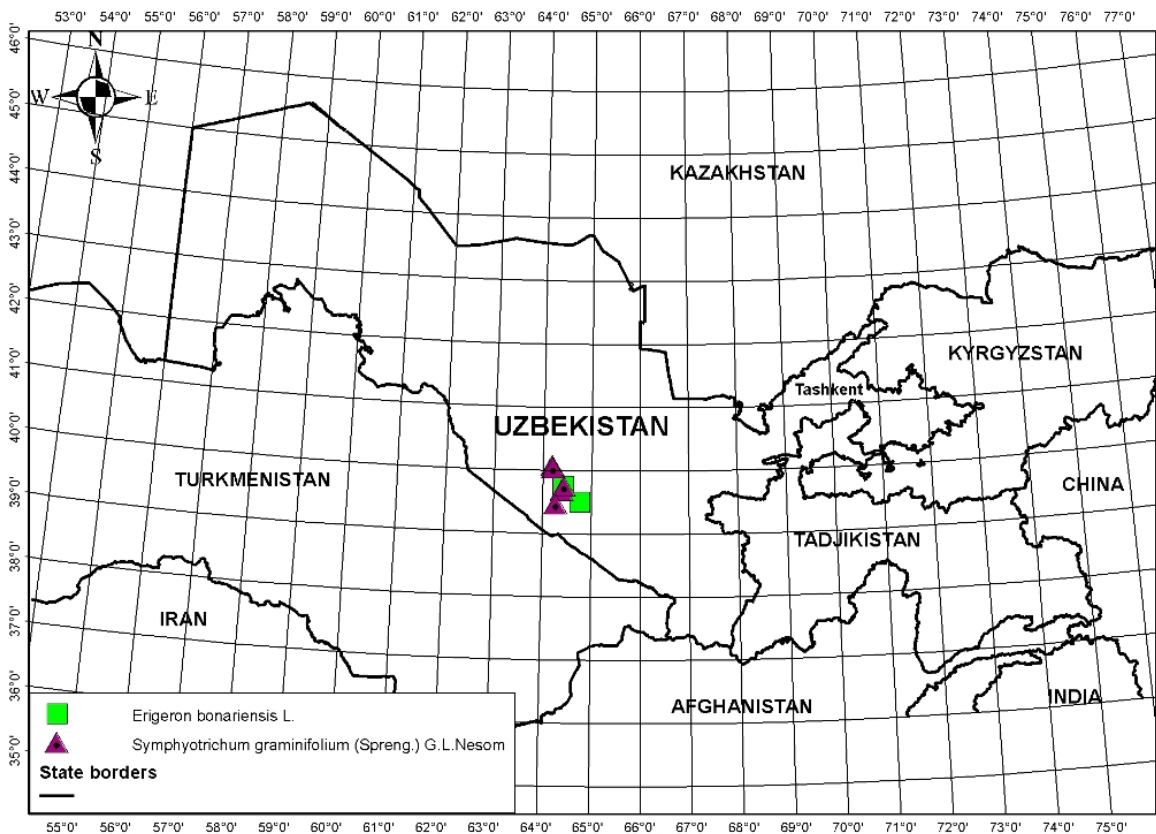


Fig. 3. Distribution map of *Symphyotrichum graminifolium* and *Erigeron bonariensis* in Uzbekistan.

Since new alien species may arrive and spread in Uzbekistan in the future, we hope that this publication will increase awareness of this process and encourage further studies of the alien flora.

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