

**MORPHOLOGY, ANATOMY AND PALYNOLOGY OF ENDEMIC
CYCLAMEN MIRABILE HILDEBR. (PRIMULACEAE)
IN SOUTH-WEST TURKEY**

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Abstract

Morphological, anatomical and palynological properties of *Cyclamen mirabile* Hildebr. endemic to Anatolia, Turkey have been determined. Typifications, synonym lists, descriptions, ecology and phytogeography are provided for the species and its relationships to similar species are discussed. The anatomical study from different plant parts of *C. mirabile* have been made for the first time. Its pollen morphologies were also defined. Morphological findings obtained in the present investigation were generally consistent with those given in the Flora of Turkey with some exceptions in numerical data.

Introduction

The genus *Cyclamen* L. was formerly classified under the family Myrsinaceae (Källersjö *et al.* 2000), but recently it has been re-classified under the family Primulaceae. *Cyclamen* is a genus of c. 21 species of tuberous perennials with bright, colourful flowers that are widely grown in gardens, and as house plants (Yesson *et al.* 2009). *Cyclamen* is primarily distributed around the Mediterranean, but it extends eastwards as far as the shore of the Caspian sea. There is also a single isolated species (*C. somalense* Thulin & Warfa) to be found in a small patch of Somalia (Yesson and Culham 2006). The species of the genus share several characteristic features that diagnose them as a monophyletic group, e.g. a well-developed tuberous subterranean bulb formed by swelling of the hypocotyl, conspicuously reflexed corolla lobes and coiled fruiting pedicels (Anderberg *et al.* 2000). *Cyclamen* tubers have toxic saponins in large amounts. Although the tubers have poisonous saponin, wild boars look for them and eat without any post effect (Zeybek and Zeybek 1994). *Nicotiana* (tobacco) breeders use its tubers (as diluted infusion) to protect their goods against below ground predators in their young seedlings (Baytop 1999).

The genus *Cyclamen* is commonly known as “sıklamen, domuzturpu, topalak, yersomunu” in south-west Anatolia. The genus *Cyclamen* is represented by 12 species in Turkey and six of them are endemic to Anatolia (Meikle 1978, Ekim 2000). *C. mirabile* is one of the six endemic species of the genus from Turkey. It grows naturally in the south-western part of Turkey, especially in Muğla, Aydın and Isparta (Meikle 1978).

In literature, there are no detailed morphological, anatomical and palynological studies on *C. mirabile*, nor on other *Cyclamen* species in Turkey. In this research, detailed morphological, anatomical and palynological properties of *C. mirabile* have been determined.

Materials and Methods

The samples of *Cyclamen* were collected from Akçaova (Muğla) in 2008 and later on prepared standard herbarium for morphological study and preserved in the Pamukkale University herbarium (PAMUH) (Fig. 1a). The Flora of Turkey (Meikle 1978) was used for the identification and

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description of *C. mirabile*. Some of the dried and fresh plant samples were used for morphological measurements and their detailed descriptions were prepared. The conservation status of the species was evaluated according to IUCN threat categories (Ekim *et al.* 2000, IUCN 2001). Typifications, synonym lists, descriptions, ecology and phytogeography are provided for *C. mirabile* and relationships to similar species are discussed. The plant samples were fixed in 70% ethanol for anatomical investigations. In anatomical analysis, transverse sections of root and leaves were prepared. Anatomical descriptions for the species were prepared, supported by light microscopic photographs with an Olympus CX31.

The palynological part of this study was made using Light Microscope (LM) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM) on pollens of *C. mirabile*. The pollen samples were obtained mostly from freshly collected herbarium specimens. For LM studies pollen grains were mounted directly with basic-Fuchsin-glycerin jelly (Wodehouse 1935). For SEM investigation, the pollen grains were transferred directly to double-sided tape affixed stubs and were sputter-coated with gold plates. Photomicrographs were taken with a Zeiss-Leo 14320 Electron Microscope at the University of Akdeniz, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Histology and Embryology.

Results and Discussion

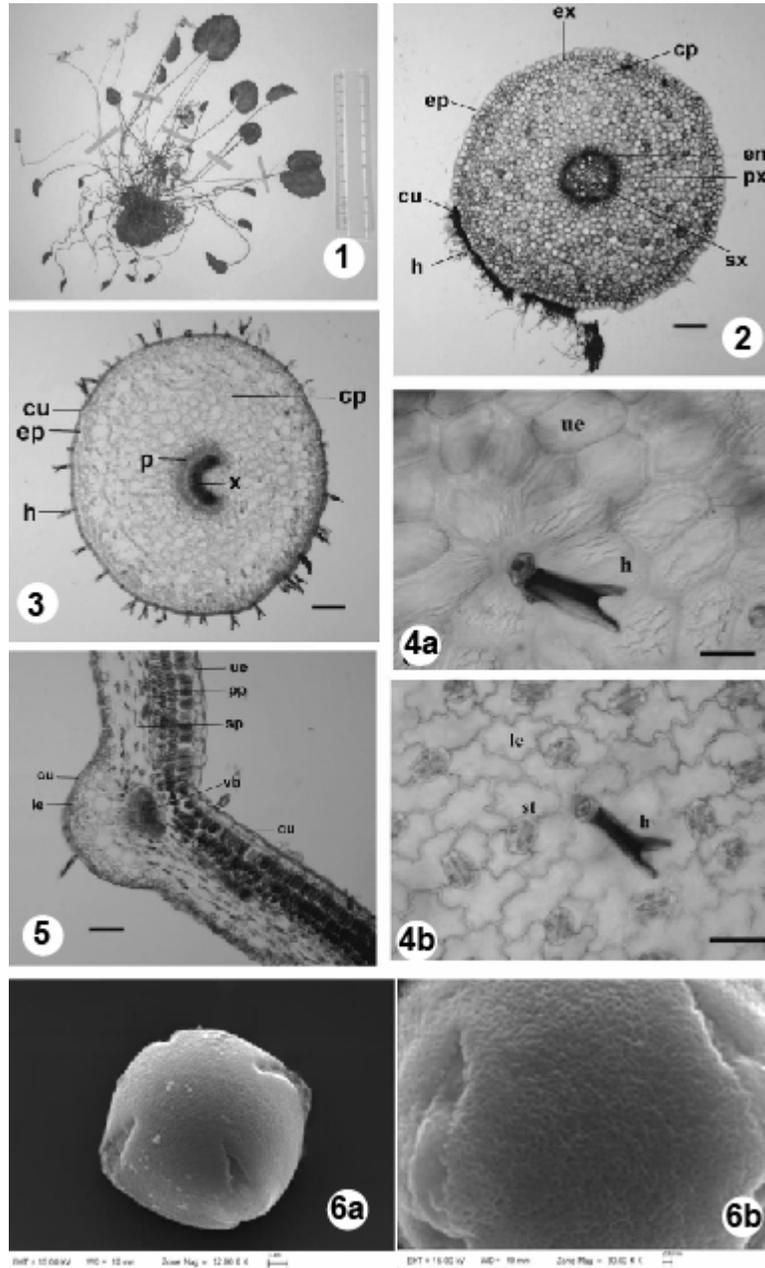
Perennial herbs with tuberous rootstocks. Tuber usually 3 - 6 cm in diam, with a corky, lightly fissured surface. Leaves appearing with flowers in autumn, suborbicular, 1 - 3 (3.5) cm long and about the same as wide, lamina commonly somewhat toothed and often with pink or reddish marbling above, especially when young, long petiole generally arising directly from tuber, glabrous. Flowers solitary, axillary and nodding, appearing in autumn. Pedicel long, usually coiling spirally in fruit. Calyx deeply 5 lobed. Corolla pale pink with darker basal blotches, lobes 1.5 - 2 cm long, not auriculate, toothed or shortly erose-laciniate at apex, rather densely glandular-papillose internally (reflexed externally). Stamens 5, inserted at base of corolla. Ovary superior; style slender, usually shortly exceeding anthers. Fruit a broad capsule, splitting from apex into 5 curved teeth; many seeded, seeds spongy, coated with a sticky secretion.

This species is endemic and is distributed in the south-west Anatolia. It flowers during September to November and prefers organic rich soils that are formed from rocky and stony slopes in *Quercus macchie* and *Pinus brutia* woodland at 500 - 1000 m attitude.

C. mirabile is "endangered (EN)" according to Red Data Book of Turkish Plants (Ekim *et al.* 2000) and revised IUCN (2001). Our assessments agree with these two evaluations. Due to anthropogenic effects such as grazing, tourism, industrialization and urbanization, the decrease in population of the species was observed. Consequently, the species faces immediate threat.

C. mirabile is related to *C. cilicicum* Boiss. & Heldr (Table 1).

A transverse section taken from the middle part of the root is observed as follows (Fig. 2). The root is covered by a thick cuticular layer on upper surfaces. There are many glandular hairs on the cuticle. The epidermis is composed of a single layer of cells, the cells are 4 sided, and 23.77 - 46.15 (35.19) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 30.76 - 58.97 (43.58) μm in size. There is usually a single-layered exodermal tissue below the epidermis. Cortex is 12 - 15 (-20) layered and consists of parenchyma. The cortex tissue consists of large hexagonal, semi-circular or oval parenchymatous cells, measuring 12.82 - 64.10 (37.64) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 23.07 - 79.48 (47.43) μm . The single-layered endodermis consists of 3 thick-walled cells. Xylem is composed of sclerenchymatic cells and trachea. In the pith a primary xylem tissue is present. Secondary xylem has hard sclerenchymatic cells and trachea.



Figs 1 - 6. 1. General appearance of *Cyclamen mirabile*. 2 - 5. Anatomical and morphological features of different plant parts of *C. mirabile*. 2. Cross section (cs) of the root (bar = 175 μ m); 3. cs of petiole (bar = 350 μ m), 4. Anatomy of leaf. a. upper, b. lower (bar = 18.5 μ m), 5. CS of lamina midrib (bar = 85 μ m), 6. Palynological features of *C. mirabile*. a. pollar view (bar = 1 μ m), b. exine sculpturing (bar = 200 μ m). h: hair, cu: cuticle, ep: epidermis, ex: exodermis, cp: cortex parenchyma, en: endodermis, px: primary xylem, sx: secondary xylem. p: phloem, x: xylem, le: lower epidermis, st: stomata, ue: upper epidermis, pp: palisade parenchyma, sp: spongy parenchyma, vb: vascular bundle, cu: cuticle.

A transverse section taken from the middle part of the petiole is observed as follows (Fig. 3). The petiole is covered by a thin cuticular layer on upper surfaces. There are many hairs on the cuticula. The epidermis is single-layered, with thin walled oval or angular cells. Cortex is many layered and consists of parenchyma. The cortex tissue consists of large hexagonal, oval or orbicular parenchymatous cells without intercellular spaces. Vascular bundle is only one and located in the centre of petiole. The vascular bundles vary in size.

Table 1. Comparison of morphological characteristics between *C. mirabile* and *C. cilicicum*.

Morphological characters	<i>C. mirabile</i>	<i>C. cilicicum</i>
Leaves	Often distinctly toothed, commonly with reddish marbling above especially when young	Entire or inconspicuously toothed, unmarbled or with pale grey marbling
Petiole	Generally arising directly from tuber and not geniculate at base	Geniculate at base
Corolla lobes	Pale pink with darker basal blotches, 18-20 mm long, toothed or shortly erose-laciniate at apex, rather densely glandular	Whitish or pale pink with or without crimson basal blotches, 10-18 mm long, entire or subentire, eglandular or very sparsely glandular within

Lamina surface preparations of both epidermises (Fig. 4) and the transverse section of the lamina-midrib (Fig. 5) revealed the following elements. Leaves are covered by a thick cuticular layer on both upper and lower surfaces. There are many eglandular hairs on both epidermal surfaces. The upper and lower epidermises comprise uniseriate, large, oval and angular cells. The cells of the upper epidermis are larger than those of the lower epidermis. Upper epidermal cell measures 23.07 - 51.28 (35.42) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 38.46 - 97.43 (58.27) μm in size, lower epidermal cell measures 15.38 - 38.46 (25.05) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 17.94 - 51.28 (34.73) μm in size.

Leaf is bifacial. Mesophyll cells are more or less uniform in shape. Vascular bundles lie between the palisade and the spongy tissue and are surrounded by prechymatous bundle sheathings. The type of vascular bundle is collateral. Palisade parenchyma cells are usually 3-5 - layered, rich in chloroplast, and 17.94 - 51.28 (30.06) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 43.58 - 64.10 (53.02) μm in size. Spongy parenchyma cells are 5 - 7- layered, poor in chloroplast, and 28.20 - 51.28 (35.68) $\mu\text{m} \times$ 41.02 - 79.48 (59.82) μm in size. Stomata is anisocytic type and located on the lower epidermal surface.

Pollen grains are monads, tetracolporate, spheroidal (Fig. 6a). Polar axis (P) is $13.86 \pm 1.30 \mu\text{m}$ (12.82 - 16.66 μm), equatorial axis (E) $13.16 \pm 0.78 \mu\text{m}$ (12.82 - 15.38 μm). P/E ratio is 1.05 μm . Exine 2.564 μm thick, tectate. The exine sculpture is reticulate (Fig. 6b).

In this study, morphological, anatomical and palynological properties of *Cyclamen mirabile* Hildebr. have been investigated. The results obtained from the morphological studies were compared with the description of this species in the "Flora of Turkey" (Meikle 1978). Our morphological findings of *C. mirabile* were generally consistent with these given in the Flora of Turkey (Meikle 1978) with some exceptions in the numerical data. In the light of this study, the description of species is enlarged and contributed to the Flora of Turkey. The anatomical investigations of *C. mirabile* are reported for the first time in this study. The transverse sections of the root, leaf and petiole, and the leaf surface anatomy were investigated. In addition, the pollen grains of *C. mirabile* were investigated by using SEM (Scanning electron microscope). The scanning electron micrographs of the pollen grains of *C. mirabile* are reported for the first time in Turkey.

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