



Astragalus ramakianus, a new name for the Persian *Astragalus turgidus* Podlech (Leguminosae)

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Astragalus Linnaeus (1753: 755) is the largest genus of flowering plants, comprising about 2400 species in the old world and 500 in the new world (Podlech & Zarre 2013). The Old world species are placed under 136 sections by Podlech & Zarre (*l. c.*) in their revisionary study of this genus. These sections were broadly grouped under 3 categories: annuals (21 sections with 86 species), perennials with simple basifixed hairs (75 sections with 1393 species) and perennials with bifurcate hairs (40 sections with 919 species).

Podlech (2004: 592) described a new species, *Astragalus turgidus*, so far known only from Western Iran. He placed it as second species in *A. sect. Plagiophaca* (Maassoumi & Podlech 1988: 83), one of the sections of perennials with simple basifixed hairs, of which the single previous species was *A. plagiophacos* (Maassoumi & Podlech 1988: 83), endemic to Northeast Iran. However, the name *A. turgidus* had already been used for a Himalayan species by Rao & Balodi (1989: 476), not yet indexed in IPNI and ILDIS. Since *A. turgidus* Podlech is a later homonym of *A. turgidus* Rao & Balodi and is illegitimate, a new name, *Astragalus ramakianus* is proposed here.

Astragalus ramakianus Karthik. & V.S. Kumar, *nom. nov.*

Replaced name: *Astragalus turgidus* Podlech in *Ann. Naturhist. Mus. Wien*, B 105: 592. 2004, *nom. illeg.*, non *Astragalus turgidus* Rao & Balodi (1989: 475).

Type:—IRAN. Esfahan: Qashqai, Kuh-e Surmandeh (Kuh-e Alijug) N Semirom, 3900 m, 7 June 1974, *K. H. Rechinger* 47560 (holotype MSB!; isotype W!).

Paratypes:—IRAN. Boyer Ahmadi: Kuhe Dena, Gardaneh Sichani, 1 August 1949, *Behboudi* 1063E (MSB!); Chahar Mahal Bakhtiari: Ardal, Zard-Kuh, 2700–3200 m, 14–15 June 1973, *M. Iranshahr* & *M. Moussavi* 15595E (W!); Lorestan: Gahar, 2750 m, 1 June 1941, *W. Koelz* 17983 (W!).

Etymology:—The epithet honours the Persian Botanist A. A. Ramak Maassoumi of Tehran for his valuable contribution to the studies on *Astragalus* in Iran.

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