A New Species of the Genus *Rhamnus* (Rhamnaceae) from China

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**Abstract.** *Rhamnus mongolica* Y. Z. Zhao & L. Q. Zhao (Rhamnaceae) is described from Inner Mongolia, China. The new species is related to *R. gilgiana* Heppeler, but distinguished by its leaves oblanceolate or obovate-lanceolate and glabrous on both surfaces.

**Key words:** China, Inner Mongolia, Rhamnaceae, *Rhamnus*.

The genus *Rhamnus* L. contains approximately 200 species, about 57 of which are found in China. Of these, 10 species are found in Inner Mongolia. The cited specimens in this paper had previously been confirmed as *Rhamnus erythroxylon* Pallas, *R. parvifolia* Bunge, *R. ussuriensis* J. J. Vassiljev, and *R. tumetica* Grubov; furthermore, their distributions have been cited in *Flora of Inner Mongolia*, 2nd edition (Ma, 1989). In the course of additional study of the genus *Rhamnus* in Inner Mongolia, we found that these specimens were previously misidentified and now describe them as a new species.

*Rhamnus mongolica* Y. Z. Zhao & L. Q. Zhao, sp. nov.

**Type:** China. Inner Mongolia: XilinGol Meng, Baiyinxile, 24 July 1959, Inner Mongolia Univ. Stepp. Exped. 185 (holotype, HIMC).

**Haec species** *R. gilianae* Heppeler affinis, sed foliis oblanceolatis vel obovati-lanceolatis, utrinque glabris differt.

**Frutex,** 1–2 m tall. **Branchlet** patulous, opposite, rarely approximate opposite or alternate, dark brown, spinessen at apex. **Leaves** papyraceous, opposite, tufted at brachyblast, oblanceolate or obovate-lanceolate, 1–3 cm long, 5–10 mm wide, argute or obtuse at apex, cuneate at base, crenulate at margins, lateral nerves 3 to 4 pairs, above green, below light green, glabrous on both surfaces; petiole 2–7 mm long, glabrous. Flowers imperfect, tetramerous, yellow-green; **staminate** flowers 3–4 mm long, 20 to 30 tufted at leaf axils of brachyblast, sepals 4, ovate-triangular, 2–2.5 mm long, argute at apex; petals 4, oblong, ca. 1 mm long, pedicels 2–4 mm long, glabrous; **pistillate** flowers not seen. **Drupes** spheroidal, ca. 4 mm diam., with cotyliform persistent calyx at base, 2 putamens; **carpo-podium** 4–6 mm long, glabrous; **seeds** elliptic, dark brown, with a vertical sulcus at back as long as 4/5 of the seed.

**Habitat and distribution.** *Rhamnus mongolica* occurs in valleys in the Xilinhaote, Duolun, Keyouqianqi, Daqing Mountain, and Manhan Mountain regions of Inner Mongolia.

**Phenology.** Flowering in June; fruiting from July to August.

**Paratypes.** CHINA. Inner Mongolia: Duolun, 31 May 1959, Inner Mongolia Univ. 98 (HIMC); Keyouqianqi, 22 Aug. 1982, Medic. Exped. s.n. (HIMC); Mt. Daqing, 1 June 1982, Shi-Quan Zhou et al. 820615 (NMAC); Mt. Manhan, 12 July 2002, Yi-Zhi Zhao 3102 (HIMC).

**Literature Cited**