AL FAATEH UNIVERSITY
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FLORA OF LIBYA

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ONAGRACEAE

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ONAGRACEAE

R.M. LABANI

Herbs, rarely shrubs or trees with leaves simple, alternate or opposite; stipules usually absent or deciduous. Flowers axillary, solitary or in terminal racemes, hermaphrodite, actinomorphic (sometimes zygomorphic); calyx 4-5-lobed, valvate. Petals 4-5, free. Stamens as many or twice as many as sepals. Anthers 2-thecous. Ovary inferior, 2-6 locular; ovule 1-many; placentation axile; style single with 4-lobed stigmas. Fruit usually a capsule, sometimes a nut or berry. Seeds numerous, nonendospermic; embryo usually straight.

A family of 21 genera and c. 640 species, distributed mainly in tropical and temperate regions; represented in Libya by 1 genus only.

EPILOBIUM

L., Sp. Pl. 347. 1753; Gen. Pl., ed. 5, 164. 1754.

Perennial herbs, growing in marshy places. Plants with verticillate, alternate or opposite leaves, generally exstipulate. Flowers large, pink, white or violet colour, solitary or in spicate racemes, actinomorphic, sometimes zygomorphic; hypanthial-tube short; segments (sepals) free; petals usually 2-lobed; stamens 4 + 4, in 2 whorls; ovary 4-locular with numerous ovules; stigma club-shaped, 4-lobed; style usually distinct. Fruit a long, narrow capsule, dehiscing loculicidally into 4 valves; seeds numerous, tubercled, each with a tuft of hairs.

A genus with c. 200 species, distributed in temperate regions and arctic zone; represented by the following species in Libya.

Epilobium hirsutum L., Sp. Pl. 347.1753; Pamp., Prodr. Fl. Ciren. 336. 1931; Keith, Prelim. Check List Lib. Fl. 457. 1965. (Fig. 1)

Rhizomatous, branched, erect, perennial herb, 90-200 cm tall; stems usually terete or sub-terete, with long whitish and short glandular hairs. Leaves 4.5 x 0.7-3.5 cm, opposite, lanceolate, acute, sessile, amplexicaul, ± hairy on both surfaces, margins ciliate with distant unequal and incurvated teeth. Racemes erect, leafy, terminal, hirsute. Pedicel c.



Fig. 1 **Epilobium hirsutum**: A, a flowering and fruiting branch x 1; B, fruit x 2; C, seed x 7.

7.5 mm long, with 15-23 mm wide flowers. Sepals lanceolate-acute, shortly hooded, deeply notched, 5-8 (-10) mm diam. Petals pink to rosy pink, 12-16 x 2-3 mm, broadly obovate, deeply notched. Stamens unequal; the longer5-7 mm long, and shorter 2-3 mm long; anthers yellowish, ovate, 2.3 x 0.9 mm. Stigma deeply 4-lobed, each lobe 1.5-3 mm long; style erect, 7.4-11.5 mm long. Fruit a capsule, linear obovate, erect, 3-7 cm long, papillose. Seeds numerous, tubular with tufty hairs, coma c. 1 cm long; testa brown.

Type: Described from Europe, Hb. Linn. 486/3 (LINN).

A-7 El-Gubba, 6.5.1934, *R. Pampanini & R. Pichi-Sermolli* 5366 (FI); Derna, 12.5.1934, *R. Pampanini & R. Pichi-Sermolli* 5367 (FI).

Distribution: Throughout Europe and Asia, Mediterranean region, N. E. & S. Africa; introduced in N. America.

In Libya it seems rare and confined to the Gebel Akhdar area.

Fl. June-Oct.

E. mirei Quezel is also doubtfully reported from Tibesti by Keith, (l.c. 457).

Oenothera odorata Jacq. is reported to be cultivated as an ornamental in Tripoli and elsewhere by Keith (l.c.).

Aknowledgement: We are grateful to the authorities of FI for herbarium facilities.

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