

POLLEN MORFOLOGY OF SOME *ARTEMISIA* SPECIES (ASTERACEAE) FROM MONGOLIA

V. V. Grigoryeva^{a, #} and A. A. Korobkov^a

^a Komarov Botanical Institute RAS
Prof. Popov Str., 2, St. Petersburg, 197376, Russia

#e-mail: mikhailov_val@mail.ru

Pollen morphology of *Artemisia* 55 species (subgenera *Artemisia*, *Dracunculus* and *Seriphidium*) has been examined using the light (LM) and scanning electron microscope (SEM) with respect to the taxonomy of the genus.

Pollen grains of *Artemisia* are radially symmetrical, isopolar, 3-colporate, subspheroidal or elliptic, small- or medium-sized (ranging from $17.5\text{--}19.0 \times 17.5\text{--}20.0 \mu\text{m}$ in *A. blepharolepis* (section *Absinthium*, subgenus *Artemisia*) to $29.6\text{--}35.2 \times 33.7\text{--}38.8 \mu\text{m}$ in *A. macrantha* (section *Abrotanum*, subgenus *Artemisia*)), with microechinate exine. Their shape in polar view is trilobate, the shape in equator view is nearly circular or elliptic.

The similarity of morphological features makes pollen characters of limited value in species delimitation. *A. palustris* and *A. caespitosa* are distinguished from all studied species.

The pollen grains of the species from the sections *Abrotanum* and *Absinthium* (subgenus *Artemisia*) are the most diverse. According to the nature of the pollen grain sculpture in the *Abrotanum* and *Absinthium* sections, there are 3 pollen groups. It seems difficult to differentiate subgenera and sections of *Artemisia*.

Keywords: *Artemisia*, pollen grains, palynomorphology, exine

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