

FRUIT MORPHOLOGY OF THE GENUS *ALCEA* (MALVACEAE) SPECIES NEW TO THE FLORA OF ARMENIA

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The use of structural features of the mericarps – the units of the schizocarp of the Malvaceae – for the purposes of taxonomy of the genus *Alcea* species is debatable. Using the data from *A. persarum* and *A. wilhelminae* as examples, the article compares macromorphological features of their carpels and mature mericarps. The comparison made it possible to reveal their species-specificity and assert with confidence the presence of these species in the flora of Armenia. The existence of these species in the flora of Armenia was discovered by E.Ts. Gabrielian in 1973 and 2008, but was not published anywhere.

Keywords: new species, *Alcea*, flora of Armenia, mericarp

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