

# Two New *Sagina* (Caryophyllaceae Juss.) Species for the Flora of the Republic of Moldova

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Received: 7.08.2025; Accepted: 21.09.2025; Published: 16.11.2025

**Abstract:** The genus *Sagina* L. (Caryophyllaceae) has so far been represented in the flora of the Republic of Moldova by only one native protected by law species – *S. procumbens* L. It was registered in the northern part of the country (herbarium sample collected on 23.08.1965 by K.R.Vitko) in the vicinity of Rosoșăni village (Briceni district), where it was recorded in an oak forest with an admixture of birch. In June 2025, two more representatives of this genus were registered and collected in Chisinau: *S. ciliata* Fries and *S. schiraevskii* Tzvelev. *Sagina ciliata* Fries (= *S. apetala* Ard. subsp. *ciliata* (Fries) Graebn., *S. apetala* auct. non Ard.). It differs from the species *S. apetala*, with which many authors synonymize it, by the following distinct characters: the absence of abundant ferruginous pubescence of the entire plant; the presence of long styloid cilia on the edges of the leaf blade at the base; occasionally, cilia present on pedunculs. According to N.N. Tzvelev (2004), the species is widespread in South Scandinavia, Atlantic and Middle Europe, the Mediterranean; introduced in Eastern Europe (indicated for Latvia and Western Podolia, adventive near Saint Petersburg), where it is found on the sea coast and in human settlements. *S. schiraevskii* Tzvelev (= *S. apetala* Ard. var. *glabrata* F.Schultz, *S. micropetala* Rauschert). It differs from the close *S. micropetala*, widely distributed in Europe, by the absence of any pubescence, including cilia on the leaves, and shorter spikes on the leaf tops (0.1-0.3 mm). The distributional area is south of Central and Eastern Europe, the Mediterranean, the Caucasus, Small Asia, and Iran. Both these new species for the Republic of Moldova, *Sagina* species, differ in the presence or absence of cilia in the lower part of the leaf margin, the length of the spikes on the leaf tops, and the outspreading degree of the sepals from the fruit.

**Keywords:** *Sagina* Genus Records; New Species in Moldova; *S. ciliata* Traits; *S. schiraevskii* Traits; Distribution & Diagnostics.

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