

Genus *Polycarpon* Loebl. (Illecebraceae) – New for the Flora of the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract: The genus *Polycarpon* Loebl. (Illecebraceae family) is naturally distributed in Europe, South China, the Arabian Peninsula, Africa, and the Americas, and has been introduced into many regions of the globe. Includes 7 species: *Polycarpon alsinifolium* (Biv.) DC., *P. depressum* Nutt., *P. polycarpoides* (Biv.) Zodda, *P. prostratum* (Forssk.) Asch. et Schweinf., *P. succulentum* J. Gay, *P. tetraphyllum* (L.) L. and *P. urbanianum* Muschl., some of which are widely distributed as an alien through many regions of the world. In June-July 2025, a representative of this genus was recorded and collected in the vicinity of the railway station in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova). In laboratory conditions, using the classical comparative morphological method and literary sources, the plant was identified as *P. tetraphyllum* (L.) L. *Polycarpon tetraphyllum* (L.) L. 1759, Syst. Nat., ed. 10, 2: 881. (= *Mollugo tetraphylla* L.). Annual or biennial, without a woody stock; stems simple or much-branched. Stipules and bracts ± conspicuous and silvery. Leaves obovate. Inflorescence lax, spreading, much-branched. Sepals circa 2 mm. Petals usually emarginate. In its natural occurrence range, it is found in sandy or rocky biotopes. In Romania, it is included in the Red Book as critically endangered (CR), despite the fact that the authors consider it possible to have been introduced to the southwestern part of the country. As an adventitious species, it is found in Central Europe (Austria, Romania, Slovakia), Africa (south), Australia (southeast), and North and South America. In Chisinau, it grows solitarily or in groups between pavement stones on sidewalks and along the walls of buildings. In the same area were registered some more alien and common species of vascular plants: *Euphorbia prostrata* Aiton, *E. canescens* L., *Sagina schiraevskii* Tzvelev, *Polygonum aviculare* L. In the Republic of Moldova, the species is adventitious. This taxon is reported for Eastern Europe for the first time.

Keywords: *Polycarpon tetraphyllum*; New Record Moldova; Adventitious Species; Morphological Identification; Eastern Europe First Report.

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