New combinations for the Montana flora

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ABSTRACT

Three new combinations are proposed. Agoseris carnea Rydb. and A. lackschewitzii Douglass M. Hend. & R.K. Moseley are considered the same entity and have been subsumed into A. aurantiaca (Hook.) Greene as a new infraspecific taxon. Artemisia lindleyana Besser has been treated as a distinct species, but a recent treatment subsumes it into A. ludoviciana Nutt. Similarities between the two entities are undeniable, but morphological and ecological differences lead me to believe that the former is best considered as a subspecies of the latter. Recent transfer of many New World asters into Symphyotrichum requires a new combination for Aster cusickii A. Gray if it is to be recognized as a subspecific taxon in Symphyotrichum foliaceum (Lindl. ex DC.) G.L. Nesom.

INTRODUCTION

Examination of herbarium material in preparation for a new floristic manual for Montana has convinced me that several new combinations are warranted.

SYSTEMATICS


Agoseris aurantiaca has traditionally been parsed into two varieties: var. aurantiaca has lanceolate phyllaries, ciliate and villous on the outer surface and achenes abruptly narrowed to the beak; var. purpurea (A. Gray) Cronquist has ovate-attenuate, outer phyllaries, ciliate but glabrous on the outer surface and achenes gradually tapered to the beak (Cronquist 1994; Baird 2006). Agoseris carnea Rydb. has traditionally been subsumed under A. aurantiaca var. aurantiaca because of its similar involucre (Hitchcock et al. 1955; Cronquist 1994; Baird 2006) although it has pink rather than orange rays in fresh material (Rydberg 1900). Henderson et al. (1990) described this pink-flowered Agoseris as A. lackschewitzii from material collected in east-central Idaho and adjacent Montana, U.S.A. and were unaware of the plant occurring in British Columbia, Canada, and having been previously described as A. carnea by Rydberg. However, they correctly pointed out that this pink-flowered form has narrow, villous phyllaries as in A. aurantiaca var. aurantiaca but achenes gradually tapered to the beak as in var. purpurea, and that it occurred in moist to wet meadows, an unusual habitat for either variety of A. aurantiaca. Though Henderson et al. (1990) believed these plants represented a distinct species, the close relationship to A. aurantiaca cannot be denied, and I believe it is better placed as a third variety of A. aurantiaca distinguished from the other two as follows:
Agoseris aurantiaca var. carnea is found in upper montane to subalpine moist to wet meadows from British Columbia and Alberta south to Wyoming and Idaho. Rydberg (1900) gives the type locality as Mt. Queest, but "Mt. Avert" is given on the holotype.


Artemisia ludoviciana Nutt. ssp. lindleyana (Besser) P. Lesica, comb. nov. Basionym: Artemisia lindleyana Besser in Hook., Fl. Boreali-Amer. 1:322, 1833. Type: CANADA. British Columbia: NW coast of America, s.d., Douglas s.n. (lectotype: CGE). Similar suffrutescent habit, flowers and involucre indicate a close relationship between A. lindleyana and A. ludoviciana. Within this complex both A. ludoviciana ssp. incompta and A. lindleyana have leaves that are glabrate above. However, the former has glabrate phyllaries, a paniculate inflorescence and deeply lobed leaves, while the latter has racemes of heads with tomentose involucres and leaves that are entire or nearly so. I agree with Shultz that A. lindleyana should be placed within A. ludoviciana, but believe that differences between A. lindleyana and A. ludoviciana ssp. incompta preclude subsuming the former in the latter. Shultz (2006) suggested that A. lindleyana may warrant infraspecific status under A. ludoviciana, and Cronquist stated that he had observed A. lindleyana growing adjacent to A. ludoviciana sensu stricto without intermediates (Hitchcock et al. 1955). For these reasons I propose lindleyana as a seventh subspecies of A. ludoviciana.

Artemisia ludoviciana ssp. lindleyana is found on sandy, gravelly or rocky banks of rivers from southern British Columbia to Oregon and east to Idaho and Montana west of the Continental Divide (Hitchcock et al 1955). The other three subspecies of A. ludoviciana in Montana generally occur in different habitats than ssp. lindleyana; ssp. ludoviciana occurs in grasslands, sagebrush steppe and meadows; ssp. candicans (Ryd.) Keck occurs in grasslands, streambanks and roadsides; ssp. incompta (Nutt.) Keck occurs in stony soil of talus slopes, rock outcrops and sagebrush steppe. Montana's four subspecies have different combinations of a few variable characters and can be differentiated with the following key:

1. Leaves glabrate and greenish above.
2. Phyllaries glabrate; inflorescence paniculate; leaves deeply lobed _____________________________ ssp. incompta
3. Leaves lanceolate, entire or shallowly lobed <½-way to midvein _____________________________ ssp. candicans


Aster cusickii was first described by Asa Gray based on a Cusick collection from northeastern Oregon (Gray 1880). Sixty years later Cronquist argued that the plant graded into other forms of A. foliaceus and was best
treated as a variety of that species (Cronquist 1943). Nesom moved the taxon into the genus Symphyotrichum and recognized it at the species level (Nesom 1994). In the most recent treatment of the group, Brouillet et al. (2006) also recognized the taxon at the species rather than at the infraspecific level. My review of mainly Montana material suggests that low-elevation segregates of Symphyotrichum foliaceum sensu lato from the Northern Rocky Mountains often cannot always be confidently distinguished from each other based on the plastic, continuous, vegetative characters purported to separate them (Cronquist 1943). Thus, I prefer to recognize this plant as a variety of Symphyotrichum foliaceum rather than at the species level; however, the desired combination had not been previously made. Symphyotrichum foliaceum var. cusickii can be distinguished from other varieties of S. foliaceum using keys presented by Cronquist (1943) and Hitchcock and Cronquist (1973).

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REFERENCES


