

THE NOMENCLATURE OF *ALCHEMILLA MINOR* AUCT. BRIT.

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This paper attempts to elucidate the various names applied to the taxon described in Clapham, Tutin & Warburg (1952) as *Alchemilla minor* Huds. sec. Wilmott, and to find its correct name. The problem has been tackled before by Wilmott (1939), Rothmaler (1941 and 1944), Samuelsson (1943) and Hylander (1945). Our conclusions disagree with those of Rothmaler and Wilmott and support those of Samuelsson and Hylander. We are very grateful to Mr. J. E. Dandy for all the time and trouble he has taken to answer numerous problems of nomenclature and typification.

The first name to be considered is *A. hybrida* (L.) L. (1756) (*A. alpina* var. *hybrida* L. (1753)). The diagnosis given for the basionym reads ' *Alchemilla alpina pubescens minor*. Tournef. inst. 508. Pluk. phyt. 240 f. 1.' The name *A. alpina pubescens minor* "H.R.P." was actually first published by Plukenet (1692) under his plate 240, fig. 2 (not 1 as quoted by Linnaeus), and then in his text (1696). It was later published by Tournefort (1719) who also attributed it to "H.R.P." Plukenet's figure (reproduced in Fig. 1) was based on a specimen in his herbarium now on fol. 22, vol. 95, of Herb. Sloane at the British Museum (Plate 11a). This specimen, which is incomplete (lacking basal leaves), originated in the Botanic Gardens at Paris ('Hort. Reg. Paris.'), from which it would have been sent to Plukenet by Tournefort. In the Tournefort herbarium at Paris (P) is a better specimen labelled ' *Alchemilla alpina, pubescens minor hort reg Par*' (Plate 12a) which is definitely identifiable with *A. lapeyrousii* Buser (1893). There being nothing to the contrary, it may safely be assumed that Plukenet's specimen is a duplicate of Tournefort's and is therefore also referable to *A. lapeyrousii*. There are no specimens in Linnaeus' own

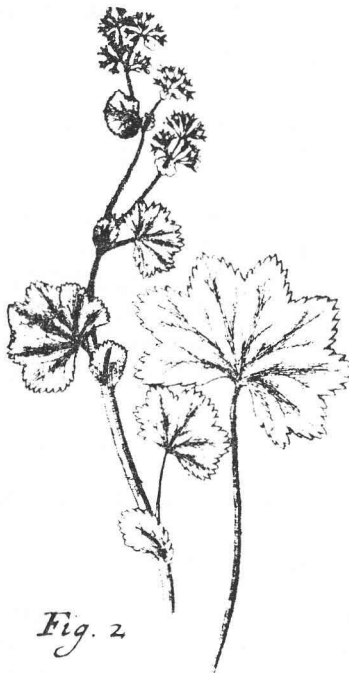


Fig. 1. Plukenet's figure of '*Alchemilla alpina pubescens minor*.'

herbarium, but there are two sheets in his *Hortus Cliffortianus* at the British Museum. The *Hortus Cliffortianus* is not cited in the original publication of the name *A. alpina* var. *hybrida*, but the specimens were certainly seen by Linnaeus before 1753. Both are labelled with the Tournefort descriptive name '*Alchemilla alpina, pubescens minor*' and both are in our opinion *A. lapeyrousii* Buser (though Rothmaler (1962) refers one to the species we are here considering). There is thus little doubt which taxon Linnaeus meant by *A. hybrida*.

The next name that has been applied is *A. minor* Huds. (1762). Under this species is cited exactly the same synonym as under *A. alpina* var. *hybrida* L., i.e. '*Alchemilla alpina pubescens minor*. *Tourn.* 508. *Pluk. Ph. t.* 240 *f.* 1.' Consequently the publication of *A. hybrida* as a species in 1756 makes Hudson's name a superfluous *nomen illegitimum*. As to what British plant Hudson had in mind it is difficult to tell, as none of his specimens has been traced, but the taxon we are discussing has never been found in Westmorland and Hudson's plant is more likely to have been *A. vestita* (Buser) Raunk.

Next is *A. pubescens* Lam. (1791) which is also a superfluous *nomen illegitimum*, as is *A. montana* Willd. (1809). Both make either direct or indirect reference to *A. hybrida* (L.) L. These superfluous names probably arose because the authors concerned did not know that Linnaeus had raised his variety *hybrida* to specific rank.

This brings us to the name *A. glaucescens* Wallr. (1840), which is the correct specific name of the taxon under discussion. This name first appears on page 134 of *Linnaea* in 1840. Here Wallroth says that, owing to the heterogeneous nature of the specimens labelled *A. montana* in the Willdenow herbarium, he will from now on call the plant he had described as *A. montana* in 1815 *A. glaucescens*. Thus the type description of *A. glaucescens* is that published as *A. montana* in 1815. Later in the year 1840 Wallroth published in the same work (p. 549) a new variety of *glaucescens*, var. *alpestris*. From his notes below this description it is clear that he names his type variety *alpina*, and the only original specimen which we have as yet been able to trace is one of Willdenow's specimens of *A. montana* in the Berlin herbarium (B) Plate (11b), annotated by Wallroth as *A. glaucescens* var. *alpina*. This specimen is referable to the taxon here discussed and it is proposed to select it as a lectotype until other material can be found with a better claim.

As all the names here discussed apply to one or the other of two taxa it is proposed to set out their synonymy and give comparative descriptions and distributions.

ALCHEMILLA GLAUCESCENS Wallr. (1840) 134 (Lectotype: Willdenow specimen in Herb. Berlin annotated by Wallroth); Samuelsson (1943) 31; Hylander (1945) 205; Clapham, Tutin & Warburg (1960), 10, fig. 588.

[*A. montana sensu* Wallr. (1815) 26 (*quoad descript. exclud. syn.*).]

A. glaucescens var. *alpina* Wallr. (1840) 549.

[*A. pubescens sensu* Salmon (1928) 345; *sensu* Druce (1928) 36, no. 190: 1.]

[*A. hybrida sensu* Butcher & Strudwick (1930) 131, plate 144; *sensu* Rothmaler (1962)]

[*A. minor sensu* Wilmott (1939) 249; *sensu* Walters (1949) 9, 16; *sensu* Warburg in Clapham, Tutin & Warburg (1952) 506; *sensu* Ross-Craig (1956) 9, plate 1; *sensu* Dandy (1958) 55, no. 220: 3: 1.]

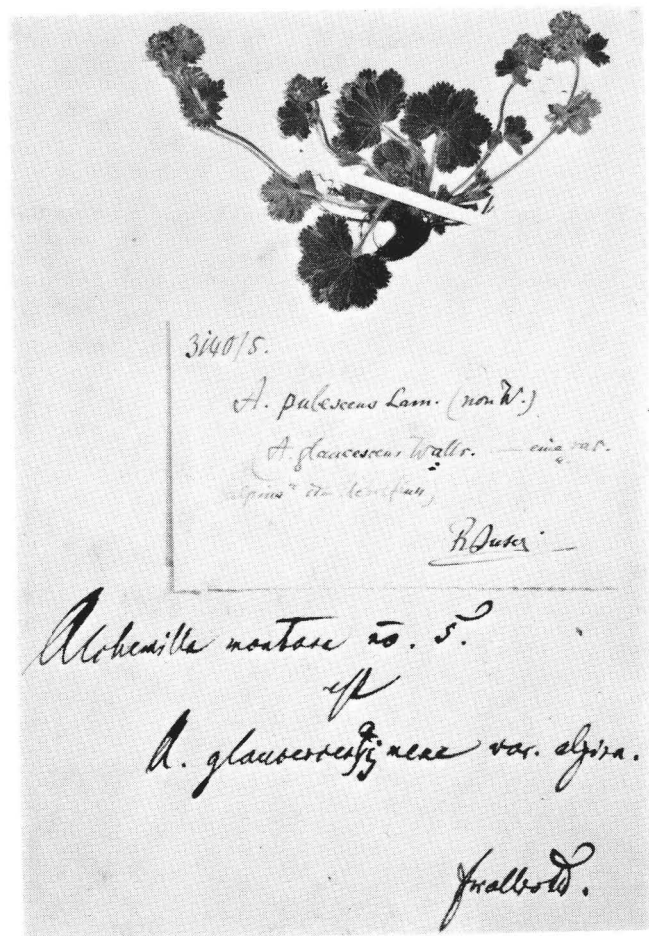
Plant small, up to 20 cm tall, grey-green, silvery. Stem fairly stout, with strong lateral branches giving a dichotomous appearance, yellow-green, often reddening in the summer, densely hairy with spreading or slightly ascending hairs. Radical leaves small, 3–5 cm broad, usually round in outline, basal sinus usually closed, basal lobes often overlapping; lobes 7 or incompletely 9, short, $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$ radius of leaf, broad, semicircular, often overlapping at the base; teeth large, subobtusate, 6–7 on each side of lobe; upper surface usually densely hairy, lower very densely hairy with long, silky, silvery hairs; petioles densely hairy with long spreading or slightly ascending hairs. Cauline leaves small, reniform, incompletely 5-lobed, the lobes broad and rounded, densely hairy on both surfaces and with few large teeth. Flowers in dense clusters appearing silvery; pedicels, calyx and outer surface of the sepals densely hairy.

PLATE 11a.



Type specimen of *Alchemilla alpina* var. *hybrida* L. (1753).

PLATE 11b.



Lectotype of *Alchemilla glaucescens* Wallr.

PLATE 12a.



Specimen of '*Alchemilla alpina pubescens minor*' in Tournefort Herbarium.

PLATE 12b.



Lectotype of *Alchemilla lapeyrousii* Buser.

Distribution : Austria, Belgium, British Isles (N. England, Scotland and W. Ireland), Bulgaria, Corsica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, France (but not Pyrenees), Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Italy, Jugoslavia, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Roumania, Russia and Sweden.

ALCHEMILLA HYBRIDA (L.) L. (1756) 49.

A. alpina var. *hybrida* L. (1753) 123 (Holotype : Plukenet specimen on fol. 22 of vol. 95 in herb. Sloane (BM)).

A. minor Huds. (1762) 59 (superfluous *nomen illegitimum* for *A. hybrida* (L.) L.).

A. pubescens Lam. (1791) 347 (superfluous *nomen illegitimum* for *A. hybrida* (L.) L.).

A. montana Willd. (1809) 170 (superfluous *nomen illegitimum* for *A. hybrida* (L.) L.).

A. lapeyrousii Buser (1893) app. 2, 18 (Lectotype : Sommet du Puy-de-Dôme, France, 27/9/1892, J. Héribaud in herb. Boissier (Herb. Genève (G) Plate 12b).

A. anglica Rothm. (1937) 167 (superfluous *nomen illegitimum* for *A. minor* Huds.).

Differs from *A. glaucescens* Wallr. : plant larger, up to 25 cm tall, generally less hairy in all its parts, especially the flowers; stem not bifurcating nor reddening in summer, and the branches less strong; radical leaves reniform, flat, sinus open, lobes longer, c. $\frac{1}{2}$ radius of leaf, more triangular, teeth smaller, more acute and more connivent; pedicels with few hairs or glabrous; and calyx and sepals not densely hairy.

Distribution : France (Pyrenees, Cévennes and Auvergne); Spain (Pyrenees).

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