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James G. Harris

Abstract

Braya pilosa Hooker, Pilose Braya, has been poorly understood among North American botanists due to a paucity of fruiting specimens for study. This has resulted in confusion about the taxonomic position of the taxon within *Braya*, and has led to speculation about its generic status. An examination of fruiting specimens from the Royal Botanic Garden Herbarium at Kew, England reveals that *B. pilosa* is correctly placed in the genus *Braya*, and that it is a distinctive member of the genus deserving recognition at the specific level. I discuss the historical evidence that *B. pilosa* may not have been collected since 1850 due to its extremely restricted distribution on the Cape Bathurst Peninsula of the Northwest Territories of Canada. I also present evidence suggesting that *B. pilosa* is diploid and may be a parent species to some of the more widespread members of the genus, all of which are polyploid. Its closest living relative is probably *B. thorild-wulffii*.

Keywords

Braya pilosa; Pilose Braya; discovery; rediscovery; distribution; collections; rare species; Cape Bathurst; Northwest Territories; Canada

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Braya pilosa is a long-lived perennial flowering plant of the mustard family known by the common name hairy braya.[2][3] It has one to many stems 4–12 cm long, erect to ascending to almost prostrate and moderately to densely hairy, and can be distinguished from other *Braya* species by its large flowers and globose fruits with very long styles.[3]. "Pilose Braya, *Braya pilosa* Hooker (Cruciferae, Brassicaceae), an enigmatic endemic of arctic Canada". The Canadian Field Naturalist. 188 (4): 550–7. This Brassicales article is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it. v. "Pilose Braya, *Braya pilosa* Hooker (Cruciferae, Brassicaceae), an enigmatic endemic of arctic Canada". The Canadian Field Naturalist. 188 (4): 550–7. 4. Brassicaceae – Brassicaceae or Cruciferae is a medium-sized and economically important family of flowering plants commonly known as the mustards, the crucifers, or the cabbage family. The name Brassicaceae is derived from the included genus Brassica, the alternative older name, Cruciferae, meaning cross-bearing, describes the four petals of mustard flowers, which resemble a cross. Cruciferae is one of eight plant family names without the suffix -aceae that are authorized alternative names, the family contains 372 genera and 4060 accepted species. Pilose Braya, *Braya pilosa* Hooker (Cruciferae; Brassicaceae), an Enigmatic Endemic of Arctic Canada. by James G.

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