

Critical Comments on *Pedicularis gracilis* Wall. ex Benth. Complex

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(Manuscript received 6 December, 2002; accepted 17 February, 2003)

ABSTRACT: Critical comments are provided in support of the nomenclature of *Pedicularis gracilis* Wall. ex Benth. complex.

KEY WORDS: *Pedicularis gracilis*, Subspecies, Varieties.

These comments on *Pedicularis gracilis* Wall. ex Benth. are in continuation of our earlier reinvestigated *Pedicularis gracilis* Wall. ex Benth. complex in the Himalayas (Husain & Garg, 2003). While giving a critical review of this complex group the authors were enlightened by certain unnoticed facts about this tangled group of *Pedicularis* (Scrophulariaceae). Although Mill (2001) has tried to solve the taxonomic complexity existing in this taxa point by point, but our view still supports the fact that *Pedicularis gracilis* is a complex group comprising of two subspecies and four varieties which have already been published (Husain & Garg, 2003), but need minor alterations in nomenclature as discussed here.

Pedicularis gracilis Wall. ex Benth., Scroph. ind. 52. 1835. **Type** : Nepalia, Gosaingthan, 1821, *Wallich* 413 (holotype: K-not seen; isotype: CAL!).

Pedicularis gracilis subsp. ***gracilis***

1a. *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. ***gracilis*** var. ***gracilis***

P. gracilis var. *gracilis* f. *verae* Prain in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta 3: 137. 1890.

Notes: *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *gracilis* f. *verae* Prain was treated as a synonym under *P. gracilis* subsp. *stricta* by Tsoong (1955), but as the type of f. *verae* is also *Wallich* 413 this has been retained under *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *gracilis* var. *gracilis*.

1b. *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. ***gracilis*** var. ***stricta*** (Wall. ex Prain) Husain & Garg in *Taiwania* 48: 49-50, 2003.

P. stricta Wall., Cat. 414. 1828 (nom. nud.).

P. gracilis var. *gracilis* f. *stricta* (Wall.) Prain in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta 3: 137. 1890.

Notes: Tsoong (1955) treated *P. gracilis* var. *gracilis* f. *prostrata* Prain. Under *P. gracilis* subsp. *stricta* but since *Wallich* 422 is the type of this taxa, hence it has been shifted under *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana* var. *brunoniana*.

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Pennell (1943) p. 131 had indicated that the isotype of *P. stricta*, Wallich 414 is present in the Academy's herbarium. He had also not mentioned where the lectotype is placed. Maybe, he could not trace the lectotype. Pennell had not examined the CAL specimens. It might be possible that the holotype is present in K but we have not yet seen the specimens of *Pedicularis* at K. Thus the location of the holotype is ambiguous.

Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana (Wall. ex Pennell) Husain & Garg in *Taiwania* 48: 50, 2003

2a. *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana* var. *brunoniana*

P. brunoniana Wall., Cat. 422. 1829 (*nom. nud.*). Type: Kumaon, Wallich 422 (lectotype: CAL!; isolectotype: BM!).

P. gracilis Wall. ex Benth. var. *gracilis* f. *prostrata* Prain in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard., Calcutta 3: 138. 1890.

P. gracilis Wall. ex Benth. subsp. *stricta* (Prain) Tsoong in Acta Phytotax. Sin.: 3: 278. 1955.

Notes: Mill (2001) stated that Wallich 422 selected by Pennell (1943) as the lectotype of *P. brunoniana*, now represents *P. gracilis* subsp. *stricta* according to Tsoong (1955). Therefore, Tsoong's *P. penellifolia* is left without a type and is superfluous according to Mill (2001). None of the above authors have stated as to where the lectotype (Wallich 422) is placed.

Pedicularis gracilis var. *gracilis* f. *prostrata* Prain has also been placed under *P. gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana* var. *brunoniana* as the type Wallich 422 is the same.

Tsoong (1955) based his *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *stricta* on Wallich 422, hence this subspecies has been placed under the synonymy of *P. gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana* var. *brunoniana*.

2b. *Pedicularis gracilis* subsp. *brunoniana* var. *macrocarpa* (Prain) Husain & Garg in *Taiwania* 48: 50-51, 2003.

P. gracilis Wall. ex Benth. var. *macrocarpa* Prain in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard, Calcutta 3: 138.1890. **Type:** Clarke 12732 (lectotype – not seen).

P. gracilis subsp. *macrocarpa* (Prain) Tsoong in Acta Phytotax. Sin. 3: 279. 1955.

Notes: In our previous communication (Husain & Garg, 2003) we have cited two specimens as syntypes from CAL but Pennell (1943) had already selected Clarke 12732 as the lectotype.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors are thankful to the DST, New Delhi for financial assistance under SERC scheme, to Dr. P. Pushpangadan, Director, National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, for facilities and encouragement.

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有關纖細馬先蒿的註解

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(收稿日期：2002年12月6日；接受日期：2003年2月17日)

摘 要

本文說明喜馬拉亞山區所產的纖細馬先蒿種群 (*Pedicularis gracilis* Wall. ex Benth. complex) 的命名問題。

關鍵詞：纖細馬先蒿、亞種、變種。

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