

Saxifraga grisebachii versus *S. federici-augusti*

Saxifraga grisebachii a *S. federici-augusti*

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BYAM-GROUNDS J. S.¹, HORNÝ R.² and SOJÁK J.² (1988): *Saxifraga grisebachii* versus *S. federici-augusti*. — Preslia, Praha, 60 : 73–74.

Key words: *Saxifraga porophylla* group, nomenclature, *Saxifraga federici-augusti* subsp. *grisebachii*

The name *Saxifraga grisebachii* DEG. et DÖRFL. 1897 should for reasons of priority be replaced by the older name *S. federici-augusti* BIASOL. 1841. This species includes two subspecies, *S. federici-augusti* subsp. *federici-augusti* and *S. federici-augusti* subsp. *grisebachii* (DEG. et DÖRFL.) BYAM-GROUNDS, HORNÝ et SOJÁK comb. nova.

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WEBB (1964) included in the *Saxifraga porophylla* group three species. (1) The true *S. porophylla* BERTOL. in DESV. with oblanceolate, 2.5–3.5 mm wide leaves is restricted to Italy. (2) *S. sempervivum* C. KOCH, characterized particularly by narrow (1–3 mm), linear or linear oblong leaves, is distributed from Montenegro to Asia Minor. (3) *S. grisebachii* DEG. et DÖRFL., possessing wide (4–7 mm), large spatulate leaves occurs from Montenegro to northern Greece. This conception has been recognized by recent botanists and confirmed by us from living material derived from nature and grown under garden conditions.

Saxifraga grisebachii is not uniform in its area. The plants from the western part have larger petals and longer filaments than those from the east. The western plants were originally described as *S. porophylla* var. *montenegrina* (HAL. et BALD.) ex ENGL. et IRMSCH. MICEVSKI et MAYER (1970) evaluated them as a subspecies of *S. grisebachii*; we agree with this conclusion. The shape and size of the leaves, length of the flowering stem and number of flowers per stem definitely show them to appertain to *S. grisebachii*. At the same time definable distinguishing features of both taxa together with geographic areas which do not overlap prove that the rank of subspecies is thoroughly justifiable.

MICEVSKI et MAYER (1970) did not take into account the existence of the name *S. federici-augusti*. Our study of BIASOLETTO's paper shows that *Saxifraga federici-augusti* BIASOL. 1841 is, according to the original description and figure (as well as the classical locality), undoubtedly identical with *S. grisebachii* DEG. et DÖRFL. 1897 subsp. *montenegrina* (HAL. et BALD. ex ENGL. et IRMSCH. 1919) MICEVSKI et MAYER 1970. It is therefore for reasons of priority necessary to replace the hitherto used name *S. grisebachii* by the older valid name *S. federici-augusti* and, at the same time, to change the names of both subspecies.

Saxifraga federici-augusti subsp. *federici-augusti* (= previously *S. grisebachii* subsp. *montenegrina*) grows in Montenegro, in north and central Albania and western Macedonia and is characterized by petals $2-2.5 \times 1-1.5$ mm and filaments 2–2.5 times longer than anthers. *S. federici-augusti* subsp. ***grisebachii*** (DEGEN et DÖRFLER) BYAM-GROUNDS, HORNÝ et SOJÁK comb. nova (Bas.: *S. grisebachii* DEGEN et DÖRFLER, Denkschr. Akad. Wiss. Math.-Nat. Kl., Wien, 64 : 721, 1897) is distributed in central and S. Macedonia, E. Albania and in N. Greece and is characterized by petals $1.5-2 \times 1$ mm and filaments in length equal to or slightly shorter than anthers.

The species name *S. grisebachii* could be preserved only if it were reliably proved that *S. federici-augusti* subsp. *federici-augusti* represents an independent species, different from *S. federici-augusti* subsp. *grisebachii*. In this paper, however, we fully accept the classification as given by MICEVSKI et MAYER (1970) based on careful study of both taxa in nature.

It is remarkable that *S. federici-augusti*, although faithfully described and figured, was incorrectly interpreted and used as a synonym of different species by later authors. For example ENGLER et IRMSCHER (1919) adopted it as a synonym of *S. porophylla* var. *normalis* TERRACC. (= var. *euporophylla* ENGL. et IRMSCH. in ENGL.) which they reported from Italy but mentioned as also observed in Montenegro. Considering that they quoted the relevant herbarium specimens it is evident that the differences between *S. porophylla* and *S. grisebachii* were not clear to them. Subsequent authors also failed to pay due regard to the original paper by BIASOLETTO (1841) as is evident from the nomenclature employed. WEBB (1964 : 457) gave *S. federici-augusti* incorrectly as a synonym of *S. sempervivum*, while placing *S. porophylla* var. *montenegrina*, which is identical with *S. federici-augusti*, into synonymy of *S. grisebachii* (1964 : 379).

Even more confusing is the use of the name *S. federici-augusti* (or *friderici-augusti*, *friderici-augusti*) in the gardening literature. At the beginning of the century this name was most frequently used for *S. stribrnyi* (VELEN.) PODP., mainly by F. Sündermann and in deference to his authority by several British authors (e.g. Irving et Malby, Prichard). More recent authors (e.g. CHITTENDEN 1956) interpreted this name as a binomial for supposed hybrids of *S. media* \times *S. porophylla*.

SOUHRN

Jméno *Saxifraga grisebachii* DEG. et DÖRFL. 1897 je nutno z důvodu priority nahradit starším jménem *S. federici-augusti* BIASOL. 1841. Tento druh má dvě subspecie, *S. f.-a.* subsp. *federici-augusti* a *S. f.-a.* subsp. *grisebachii* (DEG. et DÖRFL.) BYAM-GROUNDS, HORNÝ et SOJÁK comb. n.

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Received 15 July 1987