VALIDATION AND LECTOTYPIFICATION OF PACKERA CRAWFORDII (ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Senecio crawfordii has generally been regarded as a synonym in recent decades, as phylogenetic studies resulted in most eastern North American Senecio being transferred to Packera. Recent research, however, indicates the taxon should be recognized at species rank. Until a fuller accounting of its distinctiveness is made, its validation in Packera is urgently needed for conservation assessments and use in impending floras, thus the combination is made here as Packera crawfordii (Britton) A.M. Mahoney & R.R. Kowal, comb. nov. A specimen at NY is designated as the lectotype.

In 1901, N.L. Britton described Senecio crawfordii Britton, a wetland species of eastern North America. Although accepted as a species during the first half of the 20th century (Fernald 1950), the taxon has since been treated as an infraspecific taxon of the species now known as Packera paupercula (Michx.) Á. Löve & D. Löve (Barkley 1962), or Britton’s binomial has been reduced to synonymy under that species (Radford et al. 1968; Gleason & Cronquist 1991). However, the taxon’s morphological, ecological, reproductive, and cytological distinctiveness argue for its recognition at species rank within Packera (Kowal & Mahoney, in press).


Packera crawfordii has a very scattered distribution from New Jersey and eastern Pennsylvania west to northern Indiana and northern Illinois, south to southeastern North Carolina, western North Carolina, west-central Georgia, and western Tennessee. It occurs mainly in mucky wetland soils and appears to be very rare range-wide, based on documented occurrences. A more
detailed paper is in preparation (Kowal & Mahoney, in press), but validation of the name is needed for its imminent use in the Flora of Tennessee (Tennessee Flora Committee, in press) and the Flora of the Southern and Mid-Atlantic States (Weakley, in press) and to encourage conservation assessment of this rare and specialized species.

LITERATURE CITED


