

NEW COMBINATION IN *ANDROSACE* (PRIMULACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

Molecular phylogenetic studies show that the genus *Douglasia*, native to northwestern North America and the Russian Far East, is a monophyletic clade nested within *Androsace* sect. *Aretia*, a clade comprising taxa mainly found in the European Alps. A large range disjunction between *Douglasia* and *Androsace* sect. *Aretia* taxa and different chromosome number have been offered as potential arguments for recognizing *Douglasia* as distinct. However, similar vegetative and reproductive morphologies, along with a perennial growth habit, support the findings of phylogenetic studies. *Douglasia conservatorium*, endemic to the Bitterroot Mountains of northern Idaho and adjacent western Montana, is the only accepted name in this genus currently lacking a combination in *Androsace* — ***Androsace conservatorium* (Björk) Giblin, comb. nov.**, is presented here.

Douglasia Lindl. is a genus of nine species occurring in alpine and arctic regions of northwestern North America and the Russian Far East (Kelso 2004). Molecular phylogenetic studies resolve *Douglasia* as a monophyletic clade nested within *Androsace* sect. *Aretia* (Martins et al. 2003; Schneeweiss et al. 2004). The Flora of North America treatment for *Douglasia* (Kelso 2009) in part justifies retention of the genus *Douglasia* based on chromosomal differences and extensive range disjunctions between it and *Androsace* sect. *Aretia* taxa. As noted in that treatment and elsewhere, taxa in both genera share similar vegetative and reproductive trait morphologies, along with a perennial growth habit. European researchers, however, conducting evolutionary and biogeographical studies on *Androsace* synonymize *Douglasia* within *Androsace* (Boucher et al 2011; Roquet et al. 2013), as does Plants of the World Online (POWO 2022).

Combinations for all validly published and accepted *Douglasia* names are needed by taxonomic, phylogenetic, and floristic researchers wishing to recognize a more broadly circumscribed *Androsace*. *Douglasia conservatorium* Björk (Björk 2010), endemic to the Bitterroot Mountains of northern Idaho and adjacent western Montana, is treated in recently published regional floras (Lesica 2012; Hitchcock & Cronquist 2018). Currently *D. conservatorium* lacks a combination in *Androsace*, rendering its potential inclusion in updated regional and continental floras in North America problematic. The combination in *Androsace* is presented here.

ANDROSACE CONSERVATORIUM (Björk) Giblin, **comb. nov.** *Douglasia conservatorium* Björk, Novon 20: 9 (–12; figs. 1–3). 2010. **TYPE: USA. Idaho.** Shoshone Co.: Coeur d'Alene National Forest, Bitterroot Mtns, Bloom Peak on Idaho/Montana border, NE of Pritchard, 5800 ft, 8 Jul 1997, A.C. Sondenaa 379 (holotype ID [photo!]).

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