

ARMORACIA LACUSTRIS (BRASSICACEAE), THE  
CORRECT NAME FOR THE  
NORTH AMERICAN LAKE CRESS

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A new combination is proposed for the North American lake cress. A county distribution map is included.

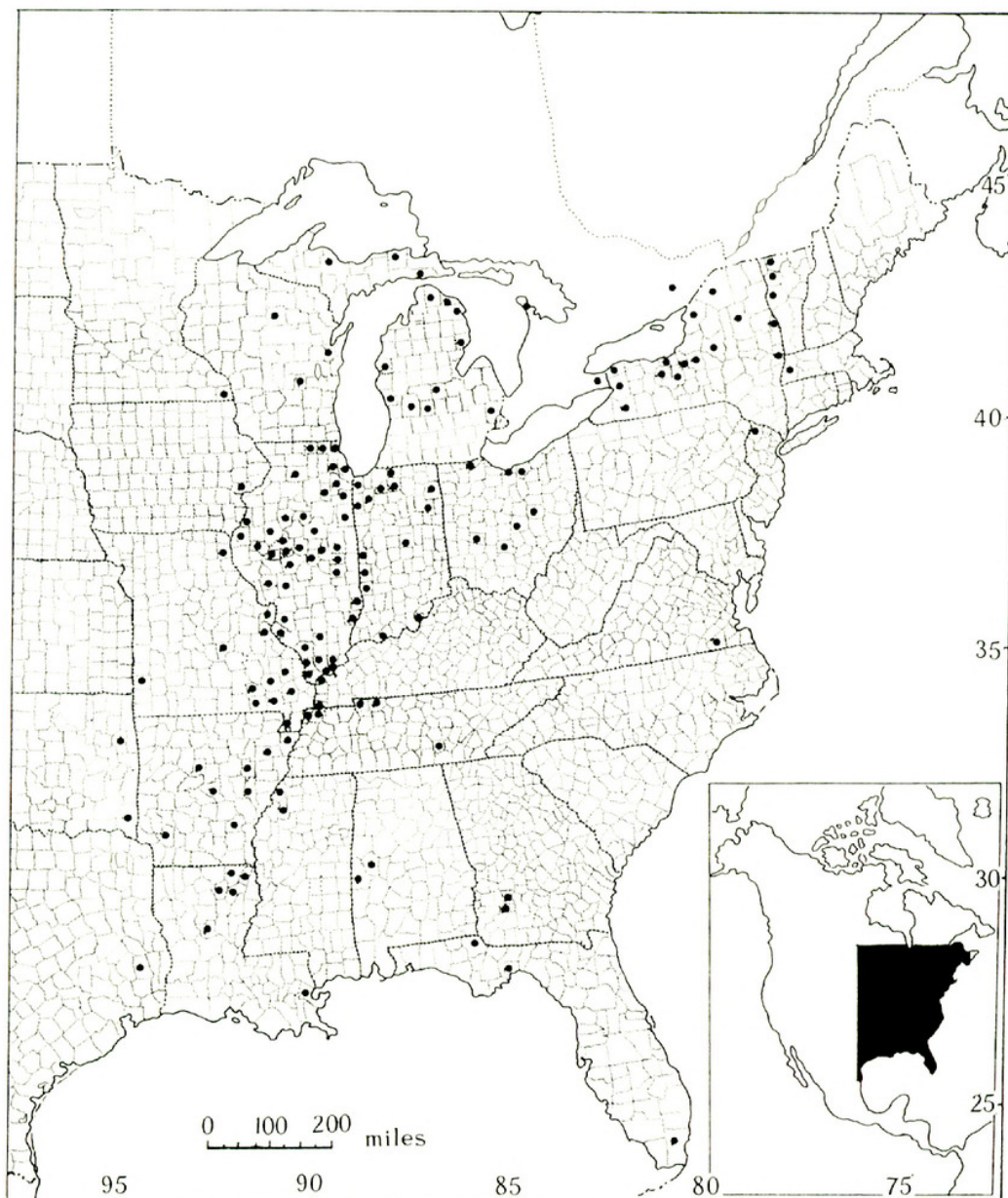
Lake or river cress is one of the most remarkable heterophyllous North American aquatic plants. It grows in quiet waters of lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, and springs, as well as on flood plains, mud flats, and muddy shores. Any part of the root, stem, or leaf is capable of regenerating a new plant. The species is widely distributed in North America east of the 95th meridian from Wisconsin and Michigan eastward to Quebec and northwestern Vermont, southward to Florida, westward to eastern Texas, and northward to eastern Oklahoma, Missouri, eastern Iowa, and southeastern Minnesota (see MAP). Despite its perennial habit, its regenerating ability, and its apparent wide distribution, the species is not very common anywhere. In the northern parts of its range, it has very rarely been collected with good fruits and seeds and appears to regenerate and reproduce primarily asexually (La Rue, 1943).

The nomenclature of lake cress, *Armoracia lacustris* (which now replaces *A. aquatica*), has been confused at both the specific and the generic ranks. Eaton (see below) originally described it as a variety of horseradish (*A. rusticana* Gaertner, Meyer, & Scherb., as *Cochlearia armoracia* L.) but later recognized it as a distinct species of *Cochlearia* L. Other authors treated it as a species of *Nasturtium* R. Br., *Rorippa* Scop., *Neobeckia* Greene, *Radicula* Moench, or *Armoracia* Gaertner, Meyer, & Scherb. Under the last genus it has been known as *A. aquatica* (Eaton) Wieg., but this is a later homonym of *A. aquatica* Kostel. The latter is a synonym of *Rorippa amphibia* (L.) Besser, an entirely different Eurasian species. Therefore, the specific epithet *aquatica* cannot be used for the North American plant under the genus *Armoracia*. A new combination based on *Nasturtium lacustre* A. Gray is proposed.

***Armoracia lacustris*** (A. Gray) Al-Shehbaz & V. Bates, comb. nov.; based on *Nasturtium lacustre* A. Gray, Gen. Pl. U. S. 1: 132. 1848. TYPE: same as that of *Nasturtium natans* DC. var. *americanum* A. Gray. Gray cited no specimens under *N. lacustre* but listed this varietal name as a synonym.

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County distribution map of *Armoracia lacustris*.

*Cochlearia armoracia* L. var. *aquatica* Eaton, Man. Bot. N. Amer. ed. 3. 243. 1822.

TYPE: Massachusetts, Berkshire County [*A. Eaton s.n.*, not seen].

*Cochlearia aquatica* (Eaton) Eaton, Man. Bot. N. Amer. ed. 5. 181. 1829.

*Nasturtium natans* DC. var. *americanum* A. Gray, Ann. Lyceum Nat. Hist. New York 3: 223. 1835. LECTOTYPE (here designated): W. New York, Oneida Lake [*A. Gray s.n.*] (GH!).

*Armoracia americana* (A. Gray) Hooker & Arnott, Brit. Fl. ed. 6. 28. 1850.

*Rorippa americana* (A. Gray) Britton, Mem. Torrey Bot. Club 5: 169. 1894.

*Neobeckia aquatica* (Eaton) Greene, Pittonia 3: 95. 1896.

*Radicula aquatica* (Eaton) Robinson, Rhodora 10: 32. 1908.

*Armoracia aquatica* (Eaton) Wieg. Rhodora 27: 186. 1925; non *A. aquatica* Kostel. Allg. Med. Pharm. Fl. 5: 1571. 1836.

*Rorippa aquatica* (Eaton) Palmer & Steyer. Rhodora 40: 132. 1938.



Al-Shehbaz, Ihsan A. and Bates, Vernon. 1987. "Armoracia lacustris (Brassicaceae), the correct name for the North American Lake Cress." *Journal of the Arnold Arboretum* 68(3), 357–359. <https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.11937>

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