

Notes on the Correct Nomenclature of *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar (Caryophyllaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** During the preparation of a checklist of endemic taxa of Caryophyllaceae on the Indian subcontinent, the need for a nomenclatural correction of the following taxon became evident. Based on types, protologues, and herbarium (CAL, DD) specimens, *Silene stewartii* (Edgeworth) Majumdar is morphologically distinct from *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar. The nomenclature of *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar is corrected by establishing the new name *Silene subodhii* S. R. Kundu.

A new species of *Silene*, *S. stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar, was published in 1982 based on material reported from the Pirpanjal range in Kashmir, northwest Himalaya (Ghazanfar, 1982; Ghazanfar & Nasir, 1986). The 1982 publication overlooked a note on a new combination of *Silene stewartii* (Majumdar, 1974) based on specimens reported from Lahul in Kashmir and Chamba of Himachal Pradesh (Majumdar, 1974, 1993).

***Silene stewartii*** (Edgeworth) Majumdar, in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 16: 155. 1974. *Lychnis stewartii* Edgeworth, in Fl. Brit. India 1: 224. 1874. *Silene chambensis* Majumdar, in J. Indian Bot. Soc. 42: 649. 1963(1964).

Diagnostic features of *Silene stewartii* (Edgeworth) Majumdar bear little resemblance to *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar (see Table 1). Further-

more, both taxa are described based on different type material. Hence, the later homonym *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar (1982) is illegitimate, as the specific epithet is unavailable by its use as *S. stewartii* (Edgeworth) Majumdar in 1974, according to Article 53.1 of the *Code* (Greuter et al., 1994). A new binomial is proposed here, following Articles 7.3 and 33.2 of the *Code*.

***Silene subodhii*** S. R. Kundu, nom. nov. Replaced name: *Silene stewartii* S. A. Ghazanfar, in Pakistan J. Bot. 14(2): 115. 1982. Not Majumdar, in Bull. Bot. Surv. India 16: 155. 1974. TYPE: Kashmir. Pir Panjal range, Fras Nag, ±9000, 4.8 1947, R. R. & I. D. Stewart 23244 (holotype, RAW; isotype, NY).

The new specific epithet is given in honor of the author's father, Mr. Subodh Ranjan Kundu.

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Table 1. Comparative morphological features of *S. stewartii* and *S. subodhii*.

| <i>Silene stewartii</i>                                  | <i>Silene subodhii</i>                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Slender, grass-like herb                              | 1. Short, woody herb                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 2. Stems 15–25 cm long                                   | 2. Stems 7–15 cm long                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 3. Leaves narrow, linear to lanceolate, 25–55 × 1.5–2 mm | 3. Leaves dimorphic:<br>a. basal leaves (leaves on main trunk) spatulate or oblong-lanceolate, 25–35 × 7–10 mm<br>b. apical leaves (leaves on branches): linear-lanceolate, 18–25 × 5–6 mm |
| 4. Calyx oblong-clavate, 8–9 mm long                     | 4. Calyx campanulate, 10–11 mm                                                                                                                                                             |
| 5. Petals ca. 7 × 2 mm                                   | 5. Petals ca. 8 × 1 mm                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6. No. of styles: 3                                      | 6. No. of styles: 5                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 7. Seeds tuberculate, ca. 1.3 mm                         | 7. Seeds papillate, ca. 1 mm                                                                                                                                                               |

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