

A NEW NAME IN SECTION *ANDINIUM* W. BECKER OF THE GENUS
VIOLA L. (VIOLACEAE)

*UN NUEVO NOMBRE EN LA SECCION ANDINIUM W. BECKER DEL
GENERO VIOLA L. (VIOLACEAE)*

The rule of priority requires a new name for *Viola pulchella* Leyb. ex Reiche from Chile as it is antedated legitimately by an earlier homonym, *V. pulchella* Salisb. *Viola escarapela* J. M. Watson et A. R. Flores is proposed as replacement. The validity of *V. pulchella* Salisb. is explained.

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During the course of preliminary studies in the Chilean *Viola* flora, we have uncovered a specific epithet within section *Andinium* which is catalogued (Marticorena & Quezada 1985), but in need of taxonomic revision. *V. pulchella* Leyb. ex Reiche, a rare and localised high mountain endemic annual, occurs in the IV and VII Regions (Squeo *et al.* 1994), and was first described in 1893.

Previously, Salisbury (1796) had also published the name *V. pulchella* in his Prodrum, as follows: '*V. pulchella*. 7. *V. canina* Linn. Sp. Pl. ed. 2, p.1325.' *V. canina* is a common and widespread species of the temperate northern hemisphere. Salisbury would appear to have disapproved of Linnaeus's choice of '*canina*' for such an attractive wild flower, so he was presenting a substitute.

No direct diagnosis or description exists for *V. pulchella* Salisb. However, the clear indication that it was intended as an alternative, later epithet for *V. canina* at a time when no rules existed to prohibit such procedures is sufficient to qualify it as an effective synonym rather than a *nomen nudum*. This leaves the later *V. pulchella* Leyb. ex Reiche as an illegitimate homonym to be replaced.

Viola escarapela J.M. Watson et A.R. Flores, nom. nov.

Basionym: *Violapulchella* Leyb. ex Reiche, Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 16: 438. 1893, *homonym. illeg. et synonym. nov.*,

non Salisb., Prod. Stirp. Chap. Allerton: 130. 1796.

The new name, *Viola escarapela*, is founded on the well-established practice in the Chilean flora of ethnic names as latin specific epithets. *Escarapela*, meaning a rosette, is a Spanish word employed locally since colonial times as a generalisation for various section *Andinium* violas which exhibit that particular type of growth form (Mösbach 1992).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank several colleagues at RBG Kew who are experienced in taxonomic practice for guidance towards resolution of this unusual nomenclatural problem. Mrs Kim Blaxland also provided essential data.

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Recibido 3 octubre 2003
Aceptado 10 octubre 2003