

The identity of *Hieracium corymbosum* (Asteraceae)

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Abstract

The name *Hieracium corymbosum* Pers. is typified with a specimen at L, which taxonomically belongs to *H. virosus* Pall. The holotype citation for this name is provided.

Key Words: Asteraceae, *Hieracium*, synonymy, typification.

Zusammenfassung

Der Name *Hieracium corymbosum* PERS. wird mit einem Beleg im Herbarium Leiden (L) typifiziert welcher taxonomisch zu *H. virosus* PALL. gehört. Das Holotypuszitat für den Namen wird geliefert.

Introduction

The name *Hieracium corymbosum* PERS. (Asteraceae) is among the oldest names available for the hawkweeds. Unfortunately, this name belongs to the most obscure nomenclatural novelties introduced in the time when just the very first steps in discovering the diversity of this taxonomically difficult genus were made.

The latest interpretation of *H. corymbosum* currently accepted in the Euro+Med Plantbase (www.emplantbase.org/home.html) places this name into the synonymy of *H. sabaudum* L. s. l. In such a treatment it poses a threat to the currently accepted name of a northern segregate of this taxon, *H. silvestre* TAUSCH, when it is considered at specific rank (SENNIKOV 1999). For this reason, special nomenclatural study of the name *H. corymbosum* was needed.

References to the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature are given according to the Vienna edition (MCNEILL et al. 2006).

Taxonomic history

H. corymbosum was described by PERSOON (1807) as a "species obscura", an insufficiently known species as is evident from the asterisk denoting this name, also lacking the species number. Such expressions of taxonomic doubts do not preclude acceptance of the name, and therefore the conditions of valid publications were fulfilled by PERSOON (Art. 34.1).

The description accompanying the new name is extremely laconic and displays very few characters acceptable as being diagnostic. It was apparently an erosulate species of the group called *Accipitrina* by KOCH (1844) and FRIES (1862), with the cauline leaves congested, amplexicaul and ovate-lanceolate, the uppermost ones being reduced. The involucre is characterised as glabrous.

PERSOON described *H. corymbosum* without provenance, on the basis of cultivated material. In his system, he inserted this new species between *H. foliosum* WALDST. et KIT. (currently considered as a synonym of *H. viosum* PALL. (SELL & WEST 1976)) and *H. sabaudum* L., indicating that it may be not different from the former species. Among these two options, the shape of the leaves described in the protologue is rather indicative of *H. viosum*, but condensed leaves rapidly reduced upwards may better point to *H. sabaudum* s. l.

One of the earliest interpretations of the name *H. corymbosum* was done by MONNIER (1829), who reduced it to a variety of *H. sabaudum* with subglabrous stems and inflorescence (including *H. silvestre*). This interpretation was developed by FRIES (1848) who changed the meaning of this name by his explicit exclusion of the original material of Persoon (creating a later homonym according to Art. 48.1). FRIES postulated that the original *H. corymbosum* is identical to his *H. boreale* FR., under which mostly the forms of the northern, subglabrous race of *H. sabaudum* s. l. (*H. silvestre*) were understood.

This opinion has generally been followed, e.g. by the famous and most influential monographer of *Hieracium*, ZAHN (1922), who plainly mentioned in a footnote that *H. corymbosum* PERS. is same as *H. sabaudum*. At present, I do not know any recent *Hieracium* source where this name of PERSOON would be recognised.

The original material

The original material of *H. corymbosum* was located in Leiden (L). It comprises a single specimen (Fig. 1) which is apparently the holotype of this name. The specimen consists of two flowering stems collected without basal parts but showing well-developed inflorescences and leaves. The leaves are narrowly subtriangular, with a broad amplexicaul base, distinctly glaucous with reticulate veins beneath. These plants undoubtedly belong to the affinity of *H. viosum*, as acknowledged by J.L. van Soest who identified the specimen as *H. viosum* in September 1944. The calathidia of these plants are relatively small, cuneately narrowed to the base, and very dark-green, looking totally glabrous on the photograph. Gerard Thijsse, the Curator of L, kindly confirmed that "no stellate hairs were found", so that the original specimen of *H. corymbosum* clearly belongs to *H. viosum* in the strict sense (SENNIKOV 1999, 2008).

The nomenclatural citation for *H. corymbosum* is given below.

***Hieracium corymbosum* PERS.**, Syn. Pl. 2 (2): 374 (1807)

≡ *H. sabaudum* L. var. *corymbosum* (PERS.) MONNIER, Ess. Monogr. Hierac.: 40 (1829).

Holotype: Without provenance, Hb. Persoon [L 900.320-183] (Fig. 1).

= ***H. viosum* PALL., syn.n.**

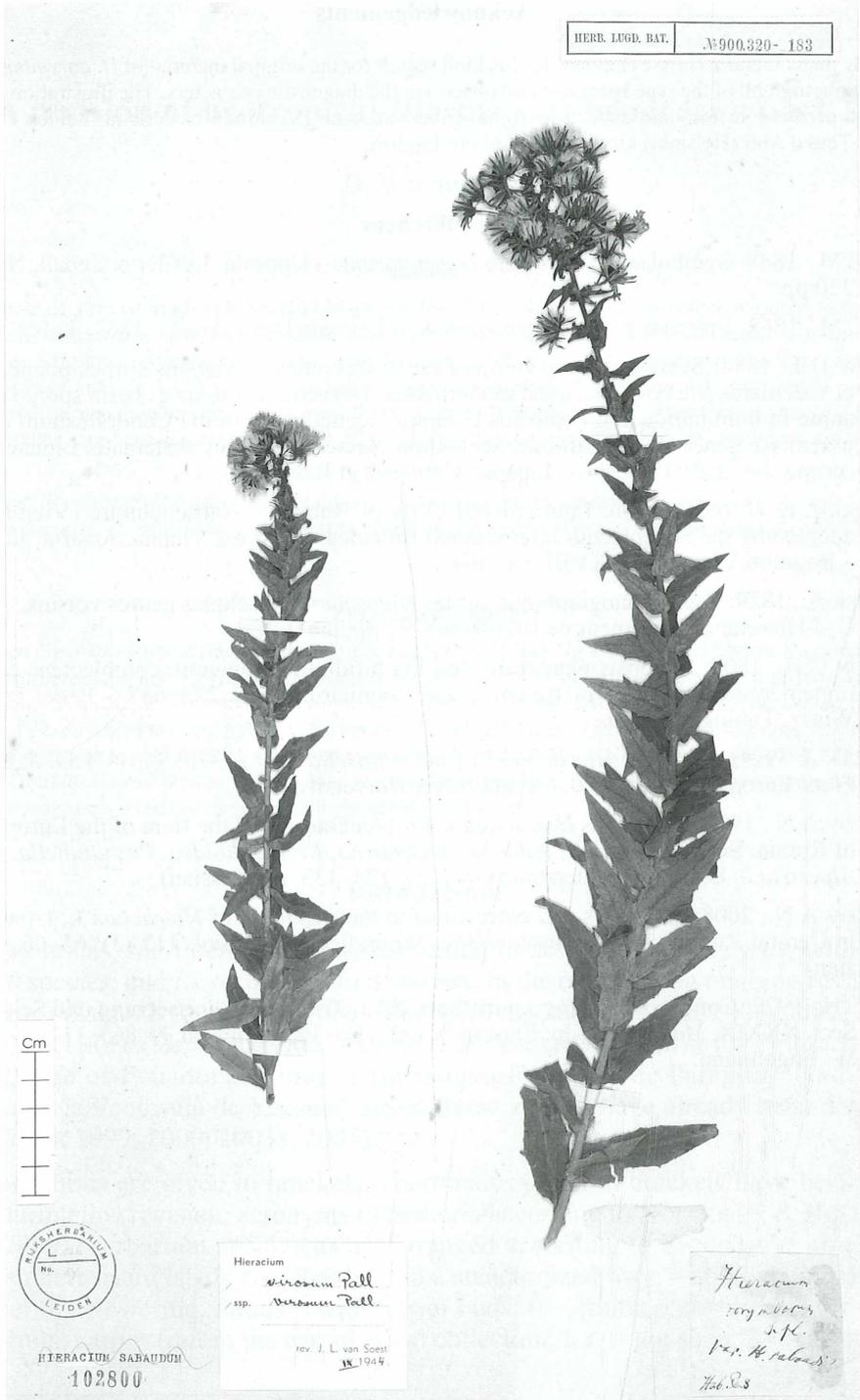


Fig. 1: The type specimen of *Hieracium corymbosum* PERS.

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