

## A new combination in *Lotus* section *Pedrosia* (Leguminosae, Loteae)

Graeme Sandral, Arnaldo Santos Guerra & Dmitry D. Sokoloff

*Summary:* A new nomenclatural combination, *Lotus tenellus* (Lowe) Sandral, A. Santos & D. D. Sokoloff is proposed.

*Keywords:* Fabaceae, *Lotus tenellus*, *Pedrosia tenella*, new combination

The taxonomic boundaries within the *Lotus glaucus* complex are probably the most problematic in *Lotus* sect. *Pedrosia*. Representatives of the complex occur in Madeira, Salvage Islands and Canary Islands. *Lotus glaucus* Ait. from Madeira was the first discovered species of the complex and was described by AITON (1789). Later, LOWE (1856, 1862) described taxa within this complex as members of a separate genus *Pedrosia* Lowe. These taxa were subsequently transferred by other botanists into the genus *Lotus*. Since these transfers, additional morphological and molecular phylogenetic data also suggested the name *Pedrosia* to be synonymous under *Lotus* (MONOD 1980; KRAMINA & SOKOLOFF 1999; BRAMWELL & BRAMWELL 2001; ALLAN et al. 2003, 2004; DEGTJAREVA et al. 2006; SOKOLOFF 2006).

One of the taxa described by Lowe is *Pedrosia tenella* Lowe from Tenerife (Canary Islands). Most botanists considered it to be a synonym of *Lotus glaucus* s.l. (e.g. BRAND 1898; BORNMÜLLER 1903; PITARD & PROUST 1908; DAVIS 1971; BRAMWELL & BRAMWELL 2001). Our investigations show that the taxon described by LOWE (1862) should be accepted as a distinct species (see ALLAN et al. 2004; SANDRAL et al. 2006). Within the scope of extensive studies of herbarium samples [BM, G, K, LE, LISU, M, MA, RNG, Z] and living plants in Tenerife, we could not find *Lotus glaucus* s.str. in Tenerife. We propose the following new combination:

*Lotus tenellus* (Lowe) Sandral, A. Santos & D. D. Sokoloff, **comb. nova**

≡ *Pedrosia tenella* Lowe, Man. fl. Madeira 1: 177 (1862). – Original material: *Bourgeau 1323*, Teneriffa: in rupibus maritimis Las Burgadas, 9 Mar. 1855 [BM, not seen; duplicate examined at K].

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Mark Carine and Charlie Jarvis for helpful discussion.

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Addresses of the authors:

Graeme Sandral  
University of Western Australia  
Salinity CRC – UWA Field Station  
1 Underwood Drive, Shenton Park  
Perth, WA 6008  
Australia  
E-mail: gsandral@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

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Dr. Arnaldo Santos Guerra  
Jardín de Aclimatación de La Orotava (ICIA)  
Calle Retama Num. 2, E-38400  
Puerto de La Cruz  
Tenerife, Canary Islands  
Spain  
E-mail: [asantos@icia.es](mailto:asantos@icia.es)

Dr. Dmitry D. Sokoloff  
Higher Plants Department  
Biological Faculty  
Moscow State University  
119992 Moscow  
Russia  
E-mail: [sokoloff-V@yandex.ru](mailto:sokoloff-V@yandex.ru)



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Autor(en)/Author(s): Sandral Graeme A., Guerra Angel, Guerra Arnaldo Santos, Sokoloff Dmitry D.

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