

A NEW COMBINATION IN *MINUARTIA* (CARYOPHYLLACEAE)

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After examining type specimens of several taxa in association with my treatment of the Caryophyllaceae for the Generic Flora of the Southeastern United States, I find the following combination is necessary:

Minuartia muscorum (Fassett) Rabeler, comb. nov.—*Stellaria muscorum* Fassett, *Rhodora* 39:460. 1937. *Arenaria fassettii* Shinnars, *Sida* 1:51. 1962.—TYPE: OKLAHOMA. Delaware Co.: wet, springy limestone cliff, Dripping Springs, 19 Apr 1936, Fassett & Watts 18030 (HOLOTYPE: WIS; ISOTYPE: MO!, GH!).

Arenaria patula Michaux forma *robusta* Steyermark, *Rhodora* 43:330. 1941.—*A. patula* var. *robusta* (Steyermark) Maguire, *Amer. Midl. Naturalist* 46:507. 1951. *Minuartia patula* var. *robusta* (Steyermark) McNeill, *Rhodora* 82:499. 1980.—TYPE: MISSOURI. Butler Co.: Gillis Bluff, 5 mi W of Quilin, 27 May 1939, Steyermark 26652 (HOLOTYPE: F!; ISOTYPES: GH, MO!).

Arenaria muriculata Maguire, *Amer. Midl. Naturalist* 46:507. 1951.—*Minuartia muriculata* (Maguire) McNeill, *Rhodora* 82:499. 1980.—TYPE: ARKANSAS. Prairie Co.: prairies, 215 ft elev., Ulm, 9 May 1937, Demaree 14920 (HOLOTYPE: NY!; ISOTYPE: MO!).

Except for Shinnars' (1962) transfer of *Stellaria muscorum* to *Arenaria*, this taxon has been ignored since Fassett (1937) described it. The type gathering of *M. muscorum* has slightly larger leaves and longer internodes and pedicels than the type specimens of *A. patula* var. *robusta*, but shares the annual habit, cymose inflorescence, 3-nerved sepals, and large petals. Although Fassett's collection was gathered too early to include seed, a later collection from the same site (10 May 1959, Wallis 8188, VDB) has the black, shiny, muriculate seeds that both characterize *M. muriculata* and segregate that taxon from *M. patula* (see Wofford 1981).

Curiously, Maguire (1951) and McNeill (1980) recognized both *M. muriculata* and *M. patula* var. *robusta*. A comparison of the descriptions of the taxa (Maguire 1951, Steyermark 1941) respectively reveals that both taxa have 3-nerved (vs. 5-nerved in var. *patula*) sepals, wider leaves than *M. patula* var. *patula*, and seeds exceeding 0.7 mm wide (vs. 0.5–0.7 mm wide in var. *patula*). Under his entry for *Arenaria muriculata*, Smith (1988) stated "Material that I earlier treated as *Arenaria patula* Michx. var. *robusta* (Steyerm.) Maguire is actually this species;" specimens at UARK were annotated likewise by John McNeill. While Maguire described the seed surface of *M. muriculata*, neither he nor Steyermark did so for

M. patula var. *robusta*. Had that been done, the parallel treatments may have been recognized sooner.

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