*Spergularia segetalis* Don. The references under the 1st species, *Alsine media*, indicate no figure, but the 2d species, *A. segetalis*, goes back to "*Alsine segetalis, graminеis foliis unum latus spectantibus.* Vaill. paris. 8. t. 3. f. 3," which shows a beautifully clear illustration. By the American Code, therefore, the type of *Alsine* is *A. segetalis.*

The definition of *Alsine* in the *Genera Plantarum*, ed. 5, 132 (1754) likewise indicates *A. segetalis* in the character "Cor. *Petala* quinque aequalia, calyce longiora," for in *A. segetalis* the petals are, as described by Rouy & Foucaud, "une fois plus longs que les sépales"[1] while the petals of *A. media* are, as defined by Britton in his key to species, "shorter than the calyx."[2] Incidentally, it is unfortunate for Dr. Britton's argument that *A. media* is the type of *Alsine* that he should have selected for his artist a flower of the latter which so beautifully shows 10 stamens (Ill. Fl. fig. 1752), for both in the *Genera Plantarum* and in the *Species Plantarum* the genus *Alsine* was placed in the *Pentandria Trigynia* and in the definition of the genus Linnaeus distinctly said "*Filamenta* quinque." In *A. media* plants with 5 stamens do sometimes occur, but in *A. segetalis* this number is tolerably constant.

It should be sufficiently clear, then, that Hiern, Britten & Rendle, Schinz & Thellung, and Briquet are correct in making *Alsine segetalis* the type of the genus, and that in not so doing the professed followers of the American Code are violating Canon 15 *b* of that code.

## III. THE EARLIER NAMES FOR ALSINOPSIS.

Very recently Small has rechristened *Alsine* Wahlenb., not L., as *Alsinopsis*,[3] transferring to it many eastern American species, *Alsinopsis groenlandica, A. glabra, A. stricta, A. caroliniana*, etc. but designating no type except "Alsine Wahl., not L.," and more recently others, content to follow Small without looking into the validity of his work or into the literature which he has so obviously ignored, have given us the new combinations *Alsinopsis verna* (L.) Cockerell, based on *Arenaria verna* L., *Alsinopsis propinqua* (Richardson) Rydberg, based on *Arenaria propinqua* Richardson, *Alsinopsis sajanensis*

[1] Rouy & Foucaud, Fl. de France, iii. 301 (1896).
[2] Britton in Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ed. 2, ii. 42 (1913).
[3] Small, Fl. S. E. U. S. 419, 1330 (1903).

(Willd.) Cockerell, based on *Arenaria sajanensis* Willd., *Alsinopsis arctica* (Stev.) Heller, based on *Arenaria arctica* Stev., etc. etc.

Nevertheless, had they looked into the standard works of reference, without study of which no taxonomist should allow himself to publish, they would have found that the plants which made up the original *Alsine* Wahlenb.[1] and the species which are universally placed with them have already had more than a grocer's dozen of generic names most if not quite all of which are clear from duplication! The sounder European botanists reduce *Alsine* Wahlenb. to the Linnean *Minuartia* (1753), but if *Minuartia* is held to be distinct there are still plenty of names from which to select. *Leptophyllum* Ehrh. Beitr. iv. 147 (1789),[2] was based on *Arenaria tenuifolia* L. which is placed by Pax

[1] Wahlenb. Fl. Lap. 127 (1812).

[2] The International Rules of Botanical Nomenclature wisely state that "The mere indication of species as belonging to a new genus...does not allow us to accept the genus...as characterized and effectively published"; but the so-called "American" Code rules that a genus *is* published by "a reference to a specific description, which is associable by citation with a previously published binomial species," the authors of the American Code regarding the retention by the International Congress of *nomina conservanda* as "in the highest degree arbitrary, as controverting a cardinal principle [priority of publication]" — Am. Code of Bot. Nom. in Bull. Torr. Bot. Cl. xxxiv. 167, 168 (1907). As an illustration of such publication of a genus the American Code states that: "*Dryopteris* Adans. Fam. Pl. **2**: 20 (1763), is published with a reference to a specific description associable by citation with the previously published *Polypodium Filix-mas* L. Sp. Pl. 1090 (1753), inasmuch as both Adanson and Linnaeus cite *Filix mas* of Fuchs." (Canon 10, Examples). However, when one turns to the page in Adanson stated in the American Code which was devised "To reach greater precision" (p. 167), he finds no mention, as is stated in the Code, of *Filix mas*; merely the following:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| "*Dryopteris* | Id. [referring to the characterization of *Filix*]. | Id. [Enveloppe] enparasol. | Id." |

In other words, on page 20 there is no mention of *Filix mas*, and the only word of diagnosis "enparasol" describes the *peltate* indusium of *Polystichum*, not the reniform indusium of *Filix mas*. The American Code would have won more respect for its "precision" if it had stated the fact, that the only reference to *Filix mas* is on p. 551, in the index or "table," where it is placed not under "*Dryopteris*" but under "*Druopteris*."

But surely if *Dryopteris* satisfies the American Code as good publication of a genus, *Leptophyllum* Ehrh. Beitr. iv. 147 (1789) based, as stated, on *Arenaria tenuifolia* L., is admirably published. Some other generic names similarly published on the same or adjacent pages, which by the American Code, but not by the International Rules, should be taken up are

PHAEOCEPHALUM Ehrh. l. c., 146 (1789), based on *Schoenus fuscus* L. = RYNCHOSPORA Vahl (1806).

HYDROPHILA Ehrh. l. c. (1789), based on *Tillaea aquatica* L., which was also the type of TILLAEASTRUM Britton (1903).

TRICHOPHYLLUM Ehrh. l. c. 147 (1789), based on *Scirpus acicularis* L. = ELEOCHARIS R. Br. (1810).

MONANTHIUM Ehrh. l. c. 148 (1789), based on *Pyrola uniflora* L., which was the type of MONESES Salisb. (1821).

HELICTONIA Ehrh. l. c. (1789), based on *Ophrys spiralis* L., which was also the type of IBIDIUM Salisb. (1812).

AETOPTERON Ehrh. l. c. (1789), based on *Polypodium aculeatum* L. = POLYSTICHUM Roth (1799).

Is it possible that these are all of Ehrhart's names the neglect of which, by those whose code calls for priority of publication at all costs, is likely to seem "in the highest degree arbitrary"?

under the subgenus *Eualsine* and should therefore be a fairly typical member of the genus. *Somerauera* Hoppe, Flora, ii. 26 (1819) with the single species *S. quadrifaria* is identified by all modern European botanists as *Arenaria octandra*[1] or *Alsine octandra* (Sieb.) Kern. while *Siebera* of the same author, l. c. 24 (1819) with a single species *S. cherlerioides* is likewise considered inseparable from *Arenaria octandra*. *Sabulina* Reichenb. Fl. Germ. Excurs. 785 (1832) contained 25 species, the first one, *S. tenuifolia*, based upon the same *Arenaria tenuifolia* L. which was the sole type of Ehrhart's *Leptophyllum*. Some other species were *S. verna*, based upon *Arenaria verna* L., one of the original species in Wahlenberg's genus *Alsine* and the plant now renamed *Alsinopsis verna* (L.) Cockerell, Am. Nat. xl. 864 (1906); *S. laricifolia*, based on the Linnean *Arenaria laricifolia*, one of the species which later formed the basis of the genus *Wierzbickia* Reichenb. Ic. Fl. Germ. v. 30 (1841), and which now appears as *Alsinopsis laricifolia* (L.) Heller, Muhlenbergia viii. 96 (1912); *S. stricta*, based upon *Spergula stricta* Swartz, which was the first species of Wahlenberg's *Alsine*, the type of Small's genus *Alsinopsis*, and *S. biflora*, based upon *Stellaria biflora* L., which was the basis of *Alsine biflora* (L.) Wahlenb. Fl. Lapp. 128 (1812) and therefore one of the types of *Alsinopsis* Small, which afterward appeared as a type of the genus *Alsinanthe* Reichenb. Ic. Fl. Germ. v. 29 (1841) and which is identical with *Arenaria sajanensis* Willd., which has now taken on another alias, *Alsinopsis sajanensis* (Willd.) Cockerell, Am. Nat. xl. 864 (1906). Reichenbach had still more generic names for members of the genus *Alsine* Wahlenb., not L. For instance *Tryphane*, Reichenb. l. c. 28 (1841), which included *T. verna*, based on *Arenaria verna*, which had already been one of the original species of *Alsine* Wahlenb., and which, as above pointed out, has been rechristened *Alsinopsis verna* by Cockerell; or *Facchinia* Reichenb. l. c. 29 (1841), based on *Arenaria lanceolata* All., which is the *Alsine rupestris* (Scop.) Fenzl; or *Neumayera* Reichenb. l. c. 30 (1841) with the two species *N. austriaca* and *N. Villarsii*, which are *Ar. austriaca* Jacq. or *Alsine austriaca* (Jacq.) Wahlenb. Fl. Lapp. 129 (1812) and therefore belonging with *Alsinopsis* Small; and *Ar. Villarsii* Balbis or *Alsine Villarsii* (Balbis) Mert. & Koch.

As if Reichenbach had not already provided enough generic names for *Alsine* Wahlenb. not L., Gay in 1845 published the genus *Greniera*

[1] ARENARIA **octandra** (Sieb.), n. comb. *Cherleria octandra* Sieb. Fl. Austr. Exs. n. 149 (1813) *Alsine octandra* (Sieb.) Kern. Sched. Flor. Exs. Austro-Hung. ii. n. 564 (1882).

J. Gay, Ann. Sci. Nat. sér. 3, iv. 27 (1845) with the two American species, *G. Douglasii* and *G. tenella* based on *Alsine Douglasii* Fenzl and *Arenaria tenella* Nutt.; but, disregarding the name *Greniera*, which had never been published for a genus prior to Gay's use of it, Heller enriches the synonymy with the names *Alsinopsis Douglasii* (Fenzl) Heller, Muhlenbergia, viii. 20 (1912) and *Alsinopsis tenella* (Nutt.) Heller, l. c. 96 (1912). There are still other names which might be discussed, *Xeralsine* Fourr., etc.; but it is sufficiently clear that even if we keep *Alsine* Wahl. distinct from *Arenaria*, there are plenty of well published names for it which antedate by many decades *Alsinopsis* Small; and, furthermore, the three species which were formally described by Wahlenberg under his *Alsine*, the basis of *Alsinopsis*, are members of the following so-called genera:

ALSINE STRICTA (Swartz) Wahlenb. belongs to ALSINELLA Swartz (1814), a name antedated by *Alsinella* Moench (1794); to SABULINA Reichenb. (1832), a name which had not been previously used for a genus; and to ALSINANTHE Reichenb. (1841), again a perfectly valid generic name.

ALSINE BIFLORA (L.) Wahlenb. belongs likewise to ALSINELLA Swartz (1814); to SABULINA Reichenbach (1832); and to ALSINANTHE Reichenb. (1841).

ALSINE RUBELLA Wahlenb. belongs likewise to ALSINELLA (1814) and to SABULINA (1832); while *A. verna*, to which *A. rubella* is so closely related as often to be considered conspecific, was one of the original species of TRYPHANE Reichenb. (1841), again a name which had not been previously used.

There is, then, no possible need for the generic name *Alsinopsis* Small.

## IV. THE AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES OF ARENARIA SAJANENSIS.

The plants which were included by Robinson in the *Synoptical Flora* under *Arenaria sajanensis* Willd. prove, when better understood, to be four quite definite species, which may be distinguished by the following characters:

The few short filiform herbaceous or subherbaceous basal shoots bearing obscurely keeled leaves: petals 0.5–1 mm. wide, shorter than to barely exceeding the glabrous or puberulent sepals: anthers 0.2–0.3 mm. long: capsule 4–6 mm. long, with membranaceous pale valves: seeds smooth, reniform-orbicular, not obviously beaked, 0.6–0.8 mm. in diameter. *A. sajanensis.*

Fernald, Merritt Lyndon. 1919. "The earlier names for Alsinopsis." *Contributions from the Gray Herbarium of Harvard University* (57), 9–12. https://doi.org/10.5962/p.336027.

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