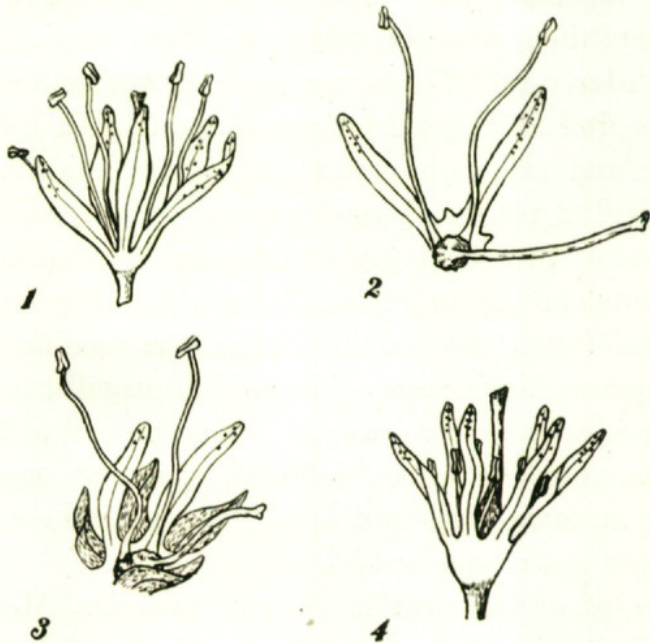


by an absence of the staminodia. These were often wanting in the Eurasian, also, being the exception rather than the rule. The accompanying sketches illustrate these results. Thus *Naumburgia* Moench, as a genus distinct from *Lysimachia*, falls to the ground. The plant with teeth is probably a variation.



Lysimachia thyrsiflora, $\times 2\frac{2}{3}$: 1, from Japan; 2, from Sweden; 3, from Nova Scotia; 4, from Indiana.

Since specimens for examination were chosen all the way from Maine to Oregon in the United States, and from various locations in Switzerland, Bavaria, Saxony, Scandinavia, and Japan abroad, it is reasonably certain that the data were broad enough to justify this conclusion.

In the seventh edition of Gray's Manual the plant is described as having its corolla "very deeply 5 (or 6-7)-parted." As many as nine and as few as four divisions, however, have been found.—MARION E. ALLEN, Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

DOES SAXIMONTANUS MEAN "ROCKY MOUNTAIN?"—In his article on "The American Varieties of *Pyrola chlorantha*" (RHODORA 22: 49-53), Prof. Fernald has revived the word "*saximontana*" to designate one of these varieties, evidently intending thereby to emphasize the fact that the new form occurs in the Rocky Mountain region. This word seems to have gained an undisputed place in botanical nomenclature, dating back to Haussknecht's *Epilobium saximontanum*

(Oesterr. Bot. Zeitschr. **29**: 119. 1879). Since then we have had *Aquilegia saximontana* Rydb. (1895), *Potentilla saximontana* Rydb. (1896), *Salix saximontana* Rydb. (1899), *Saxifraga saximontana* E. Nels. (1899), *Draba saximontana* A. Nels. (1900), *Ribes saximontanum* E. Nels. (1900) and *Juncus saximontanus* A. Nels. (1902).

If these authors intended by the use of this specific adjective to convey the meaning that the plant was restricted to that part of the Rocky Mountain system lying north of the Laramie Plains, and called by Lewis and Clark the "Stony Mountains," in contradistinction to the Park Mountains lying to the southward in Colorado, New Mexico and eastern Utah, the word seems very well chosen: but if it was selected as the Latin equivalent of Rocky Mountains in general, it lacks the significance which it would have for one who knew no other language than Latin—unless indeed we are to assume that the Rocky Mountains are so called from the frequency of loose stone on their slopes!

But the universal belief in the West is that the name "Rocky" alludes to the predominance of bold cliffs and pinnacles of bare treeless rock, which might be described either as *rupes* or *scopuli*, but hardly as *saxa*, the latter word being only the prosaic designation for the material *stone*, thought of usually as occurring in detached fragments.

That this was the view of DeCandolle, a writer of correct and idiomatic scientific Latin, seems to be borne out by numerous passages in the Prodrômus, e. g., under *Pentstemon secundiflorus* Benth.: "In montibus Scopulosis" (**10**: 325). To be sure, *scopulus* in the classics more frequently refers to rocks or ledges *in the sea*; but this is not uniformly the case (cf. the account of the cavern of Cacus in the Eighth Book of the Aeneid), and the fact of the bold and projecting character of the rock seems to be the root-idea.

But *saximontanus* has come into such general usage that it may now be regarded as a sort of *nomen conservandum*; there is no doubt that *we* know what it means, and it is hardly pertinent to inquire whether to a Roman it would have conveyed the same idea. Since scientific Latin has degenerated into a sort of conventional symbol, and seems no longer subject to the rules which govern the usage of a living language, priority and universality rather than idiomatic correctness will continue to be the chief desiderata, although an ineffectual squeak of protest may now and then be emitted by the few surviving classicists!—JAMES C. NELSON, Salem, Oregon.

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Nelson, James C. 1920. "Does saximontanus mean 'Rocky mountain?'" *Rhodora* 22, 194–195.

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