

ERIOPHORUM RUSSEOLUM, FR., VERSUS *E. CHAMISSONIS*, C. A. MEY.

In an article on North American species of *Eriophorum* (Rhodora, Vol. 7, 1905) Mr. Fernald expresses the opinion that *E. Chamissonis*, Mey., is identical with *E. russeolum*, Fr., hence the name of Meyer must be preferred, being the older. This article has been reprinted *ex parte* in THE OTTAWA NATURALIST (May, 1906) by Mr. James M. Macoun without further comment.

In recent years the matter of changing plant-names has, in America, been considered a most important point in botanical science, and far more so than the study of the plants themselves; that a number of these alterations have proved unsuccessful, we all know. Now, in regard to the proposed change of name of said *Eriophorum*, from *russeolum* to *Chamissonis*, I wish to state that this question was amply discussed some sixty years ago, and by authors who were familiar with the species of both. And I should think that the following statement, by Fries himself (Bot. Notiser 1848, p 6) would be more than sufficient to settle the question: "We are able to produce Meyer's own statement acknowledging identity of his *E. Chamissonis* with our Swedish *E. capitatum*."

THEO. HOLM.

Brookland, D.C., May, 1906.

THE IDENTITY OF *ERIOPHORUM CHAMISSONIS* AND
E. RUSSEOLUM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE OTTAWA NATURALIST:

I thank you for the opportunity to see the proof of the preceding note in regard to the identity of *Eriophorum Chamissonis* and *E. russeolum* and for your courteous invitation that I restate the reasons for considering the two identical. That question was discussed at length by me in Rhodora, vii. 83, 133 (1905); but, since your correspondent apparently sees in the attempt to clear the identities and relationship of our American *Eriophorums* only a "matter of changing plant-names" and has seemingly been unable



Holm, Theodor. 1906. "Eriophorum russeolum, Fr. vs. E. chamissonis, C. A. Mey." *The Ottawa naturalist* 20(3), 62–62.

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