

THE *PINGUICULA BENEDICTA* “PUZZLE” RESOLVED

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In his recently published monograph on the genus *Pinguicula* in the Greater Antilles, Casper (2019: 100) writes with respect to the “dubious taxon” *P. benedicta* Barnhart: “Holotype: Cuba, Oriente, trail [from] Camp La Barga to Camp San Benito 43, 23 [“ 22-26 ”] Feb 1910, Shafer 4025 (NY, destroyed in 1943 while on loan to B) ”

There is apparently no original material in the New York herbarium (NY), and the assumption that it was destroyed in Berlin (B) cannot plausibly be refuted. It should, however, be noted that Barnhart (1920: 110) did not specify the herbarium in his original type reference, and (as already noted by Shimai 2017: 274) there is a well-preserved specimen of “Shafer 4025” in the herbarium of the Arnold Arboretum (A, barcode 93357) (<https://s3.amazonaws.com/huhwebimages/AFF6F6B7193F4F2/type/full/93357.jpg> accessed on 3 April 2019).

Barnhart’s statement “the 5 lobes all oblong, entire, overlapping” is somewhat misleading. The “Material from Packet” (dissected parts of a corolla) of the scan quoted above, which may have led to this claim, has indeed fairly broad petal lobes overlapping at their lateral margins, but on the same sheet a number of flowers have clearly spreading and even quite narrow ones: a situation that Casper himself (l.c.: 41, under *P. caryophyllacea* Casper) described as “typical *P. caryophyllacea* characters in the middle of ‘*P. toldensis*’ characters!”

Also, Barnhart’s statement “corolla (...) dark blue” is at most suitable for the distinction from “white” (for *P. lignicola* Barnhart that was described simultaneously and almost simultaneously collected in the same region). Shafer himself did not indicate any color on the label (and only wrote “blue” in his notes). Barnhart may simply have deduced the original color merely from the dried specimen.

The assumption that no original material from *P. benedicta* is extant (l.c.: 103) is thus refuted, a neotypification (considered l.c.: 104) is consequently out of the question, as is the idea to reject Barnhart’s formally flawless name. Available evidence clearly indicates that *P. benedicta* is the first validly published name for plants with a corolla shaped like in *P. toldensis* Casper (that was collected some 10 km apart and which is quite rightfully united with *P. caryophyllacea*, l.c.: 31).

With this insight, the names *P. caryophyllacea* and *P. toldensis* become later synonyms of *P. benedicta*, as already proposed by Lampard *et al.* (2016).

References

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