

## A new combination in *Oxalis laciniata* Cav.

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In a previous paper (Shaw, 2009) *O. squamoso-radicosa* was reduced to synonymy under *O. laciniata*, although *O. squamosa-radicosa* var. *pubescens* Skottsberg was left untreated, largely because it was dismissed by Lourteig (1988, 2000).

Following extensive field work in Patagonia over several years by Chris Brickell, Peter Erskine and Martin Sheader, new information is now available to clarify the position of this variety. The latter's field notes are provided as an Appendix to this paper.

The original description of var. *pubescens* provided in Skottsberg (1916) was as follows: "Folia hirsuta. Pedunculus superne pubescens. Calyx albolanatus. Petala azureo-violacea, margine puberula. Cetera ut in typo." This may be translated as, "Leaves hirsute. Upper part of flower stalks pubescent. Calyx with long white hairs. Petals blue-violet, shortly hairy along margins. Other characters as the typical variety."

Far from occurring at random through out the range of *O. laciniata*, plants that match this description are restricted to a very limited area in north-west Santa Cruz province, Argentina, and neighbouring Chile, forming an island within the distribution of *O. laciniata* var. *laciniata*. This distribution covers 197km north to south by only some 30km east to west and includes the type locality given by Skottsberg. This limited distribution is shared with at least two other species, notably the most southern rosulate viola, *Viola auricolor*, and *Adesmia ruiz-lealii*. Until recently, this tiny rhizomatous legume had been recorded on only one occasion at the type locality, Meseta del Lago Buenos Aires, but it has since been found at all the localities where *Oxalis laciniata* var. *pubescens* occurs.

There are a few records of typical *O. laciniata* to the north of Lago Buenos Aires. Monte Zeballos forms the south-west corner of Meseta

del Lago Buenos Aires. In the meseta centre and eastern part of the meseta are typical *O. laciniata*. The steppe to the east as far as the Atlantic coast has typical *O. laciniata*, as has the area to the south of Río Capitán.

In cultivation plants of *O. laciniata* var. *pubescens* have set seed in the absence of other plants to cross-pollinate with, indicating they are self-compatible. This self-compatibility is not known in typical var. *laciniata*. This biological difference in the breeding system provides further evidence for the recognition of var. *pubescens* and therefore the requisite combination is provided:

***Oxalis laciniata* Cav. var. *pubescens* (Skottsberg) J. M. H. Shaw comb. nov.**

Basionym: *Oxalis squamoso-radicalosa* Steudel var. *pubescens* Skottsberg, Kongl. Svenska Vetenskaps-akad. Handl. 56(5): 254 (1916).

Type: Argentina, Santa Cruz, Lago Pueyrredón-Posadas, by Río Tarde, 1050m, Skottsberg 21 Dec. 1908 (holotype UPS, isotype K!).

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Fig. 1. *Oxalis laciniata* var. *pubescens* from Pico Sur, Chile (top), Monte Zeballos, Argentina (bottom left), and Río Capitán, Argentina (bottom right).

### **Appendix 1. Field notes on the occurrence of *O. laciniata* var. *pubescens***

The following field notes have been kindly supplied by Martin Shearer.

1. Ridge over Lago del Toro, Rio Capitan, Argentina (48 25.408S, 71 41.866W, 1094m). Not very common. A few specimens of *O. laciniata* were found at lower altitude, though still with broad leaflets. (Together with *O. enneaphylla* & *O. loricata*)
2. Perito Moreno National Park, Argentina (47 47 21.70S, 72 04 04.87W, 930m). Fairly common, again with non-hairy, broad leaflet plants. Rhizome often up to twice width of typical *O. laciniata*. (Together with *O. loricata*)
3. Monte Zeballos Pass, Argentina (47 00 18.17S, 71 48 08.22W, 1400-1660m). Common. No typical *O. laciniata* present. (Together with *O. loricata* & *O. adenophylla*)
4. Pico Sur, Chile Chico, Chile (46 39.501S, 71 44.991W, 1000-1136m). Common. No typical *O. laciniata* present. (Together with *O. loricata* & *O. adenophylla*).