



## Nomenclatural notes on *Acanthophyllum* (Caryophylleae, Caryophyllaceae)

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*Acanthophyllum* Meyer (1831: 210) in a broad sense comprises 80–90 perennial subshrubby species which are distributed mainly in the Irano-Turanian region (see e.g., Bittrich 1993, Ghaffari 2004, Pirani *et al.* 2014). According to the phylogenetic study by Pirani *et al.* (2014), *Acanthophyllum* s.lat. includes 11 sections. As part of our ongoing taxonomic investigations of *Acanthophyllum*, corrections to names of five *Acanthophyllum* sections are made here.

Boissier (1867) proposed the first infrageneric classification of *Acanthophyllum*, recognizing five groups which were marked by the symbol “§”. This symbol was often regarded as section (see Stearn 1966, Rabeler 1993, Pirani *et al.* 2014). The infrageneric classification of Boissier was followed by several authors (e.g., Golenkin 1893, Schischkin 1936, Schiman-Czeika 1988). However, Boissier (1867) did not use the “§” mark consistently to signify a single rank. For instance, while in the genera *Cerastium* Linnaeus (1753: 437) and *Gypsophila* Linnaeus (1753: 406), Boissier (1867: 712, 534) used the symbol “§” within the sections, in *Silene* Linnaeus (1753: 416) it was used for series and subseries ranks (see also Rabeler 1993). Therefore, the epithet (boldface) preceded by “§” in Boissier (1867), should be treated as unranked (Rabeler 1993; see also Arts. 37.3 and 37.5, McNeill *et al.* 2012). Lazkov (2006) considered § *Macrostegia* Boissier (1867: 563) as unranked, but cited Pax & Hoffmann (1934) as the first publication of the name as a section. On the basis of our investigations, it appears that Pax (1889) was the first to use Boissier’s unranked groups at the rank of section.

*Acanthophyllum* has been the subject of two major taxonomic treatments by Schischkin (1936), and Schiman-Czeika (1988). Both these authors have cited Boissier’s unranked groups at the rank of section. Schischkin (1936), in *Flora of USSR*, divided the genus into two subgenera including six sections, among which two were newly described (“*Oligosperma*” and “*Versicoloria*”). Since he did not provide a Latin description or diagnosis for these two sections, these names were not validly published (Art. 39.1, McNeill *et al.* 2012). Schiman-Czeika (1988), in taxonomic treatment of *Acanthophyllum* in *Flora Iranica*, cited “Schischkin” as the author of sect. *Oligosperma* Schischkin ex Schiman-Czeika (1988: 292); she validated that name by the inclusion of a Latin description. Schischkin’s second section name (“*Versicoloria*”) is corrected here. Schischkin (1936) also named five series within his *Oligosperma* group, but no Latin descriptions were given and these names are thus also invalidly published.

References to certain articles of the Melbourne Code (ICN, McNeill *et al.* 2012) are given below as necessary.

### Names of five sections of *Acanthophyllum*

*Acanthophyllum* section ***Macrodonta*** (Boissier) Pax in Engler & Prantl (1889: 74).

≡ *Acanthophyllum* [unranked] ***Macrodonta*** Boissier (1867: 561).

*Acanthophyllum* section ***Macrostegia*** (Boissier) Pax in Engler & Prantl (1889: 74).

≡ *Acanthophyllum* [unranked] ***Macrostegia*** Boissier (1867: 563).

*Acanthophyllum* section ***Pleiosperma*** (Boissier) Pax in Engler & Prantl (1889: 74).

≡ *Acanthophyllum* [unranked] ***Pleiosperma*** Boissier (1867: 565).

*Acanthophyllum* section ***Oligosperma*** Schischkin ex Schiman-Czeika (1988: 292).

≡ “*Acanthophyllum* sect. *Oligosperma*” in Schischkin (1936: 783), *nom. inval.* (Art. 39.1 of ICN).

≡ “*Acanthophyllum* [unranked] *Euacanthophyllum*” in Boissier (1867: 561), *nom. inval.* (Art. 21.3 of ICN).

= “*Acanthophyllum* sect. *Elatiora*” in M. Musaeva (1981: 30), *nom. inval.* (Art. 41.1 of ICN).

*Acanthophyllum* section *Allochrusa* (Bunge ex Boiss.) Pirani & Rabeler, *comb. nov.*

≡ *Allochrusa* Bunge ex Boissier (1867: 559).

**Type** (designated by Swart 1961): *Allochrusa versicolor* Fischer & Meyer.

≡ “*Allochrusa* sect. *Versicoloria*“ in Schischkin (1936: 799), *nom. inval.* (Art. 39.1 of ICN)<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> We follow Rec. 21B.4 of the ICN in selecting *Allochrusa* as the name for this section.