TWO NEW COMBINATIONS IN FLORIDA SELAGINELLAS

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ABSTRACT

New combinations at the varietal level are made for two Florida Selaginella species.

KEY WORDS: Selaginella, Selaginellaceae, Florida, nomenclature

A review of certain Selaginella specimens for volume one of the Flora of Florida (Wunderlin & Hansen, in press) has revealed the need for two new combinations.


When Alston (1952) revised the West Indian species of Selaginella, he placed the Florida species S. eatonii Hieronymus ex Small in the synonymy of S. armata Baker. This was followed by Long & Lakela (1970) and Lakela & Long (1976). Buck (1978) recognized this taxon at the species level, pointing out that Alston had mistakenly placed S. eatonii in the synonymy of S. armata, while it is actually conspecific with S. bracei Hieronymus ex O.C. Schmidt of the Bahamas and Cuba. Selaginella eatonii, an earlier name than S. bracei, was separated from S. armata by Buck on several anatomical (e.g., stomatal arrangement) and morphological characters, the most consistent and readily observed being differences in the leaf margin. Selaginella armata has evident hyaline leaf margins that are ciliate, especially at the base, while the leaves of S. eatonii have much less evident hyaline margins that are serrate. These characters hold up well, even in the material from western Cuba, where S. eatonii is sympatric with S. armata in the Pinar del Río and La Habana provinces. However, we feel that the characters are so minor and the two taxa so
obviously closely related, that the best disposition for practicality and consistency is at the varietal level. The best classification of other Caribbean forms of *S. armata*, especially robust specimens from Hispaniola, is yet to be determined by *Selaginella* workers.

Material has been seen of *Selaginella armata* var. *armata* from Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, Jamaica, and western Cuba (Pinar del Río, La Habana), and of *S. armata* var. *eatonii* from western Cuba (Matanzas, La Habana, Pinar del Río), Florida (Miami-Dade Co.), and the Bahama Islands (Andros, Abaco, and Grand Bahama).


The situation here is very much like that above, because Somers & Buck (1975) and Buck & Lucansky (1976) have analyzed the variation between *Selaginella apoda* (Linnaeus) Spring and *S. ludoviciana* (A. Braun) A. Braun, again separating the two taxa by anatomical and leaf margin characters. The main distinction is that the leaves of *S. ludoviciana* have an easily visible hyaline margin with 3-5 rows of transparent cells, while those of *S. apoda* are green to the margin or very near it (0-2 rows of transparent cells). Clewell (1985) considered the two conspecific, while Wunderlin (1998) treated them as distinct, as did Valdespino (1993). Once again, the two taxa are so obviously close that disposition at the varietal level seems best.

*Selaginella apoda* var. *apoda* occurs from Maine south to central Florida (Highlands Co.), west to Oklahoma and Texas and also in México (Chihuahua south to Chiapas), while *S. apoda* var. *ludoviciana* is found only on the Gulf Coastal Plain, in southwestern Georgia, northern Florida (south to Citrus Co.), southeastern Alabama, southern Mississippi, and southeastern Louisiana.

**LITERATURE CITED**


