

THE IDENTITY OF *PAPAVER POLLAKII* KERNER

During the course of a biosystematic study of *Papaver* section *Oxytona* (Goldblatt, 1974) it seemed likely that the species *P. pollakii* described by Kerner von Marilaun in 1888 belonged to the section. The description was too brief and superficial to be certain, and the identity of *P. pollakii* could not be deduced from the published description. The type was believed to be housed at the Botanical Museum of the University of Vienna, but requests for the loan of authentic material in 1972 and 1973 proved fruitless and the specimens were thought to be part of a loan of *Papaver* to Humboldt University, Berlin. When a request to this institution to lend me possible type material of *P. pollakii* briefly to complete the study of types of species of sect. *Oxytona* elicited no response, I was obliged to publish the results of my study without being able to deal with *P. pollakii*. I have now received what appears to be authentic material comprising plants grown at Vienna, the progeny of seed collected by Dr. Pollak in northern Iran, in the vicinity of Ask. There are no annotations on any of the three specimens I have seen to indicate Kerner saw them, and no indication that these plants are actually types of *P. pollakii*. However, this material makes it clear that *P. pollakii* belongs to section *Oxytona* and is conspecific with *P. bracteatum*, one of the three species which I recognized in the section. The specimens are dated 1886 and 1887 and were grown at the Vienna Botanical Gardens. Almost certainly they are offspring of the original seed sent earlier to Vienna by Pollak. It seems reasonable to designate one of these specimens as lectotype, and I have selected the sheet bearing acquisition number 878. This is the only one of the three which has an open flower.

The determination is based on the following features. *Papaver pollakii* has quite dark red flowers with longitudinally blotched tepals and this pattern is consistent with the markings of *P. bracteatum*, the petals of which also dry a dark color. Specimens have four bracts, a low number for *P. bracteatum* though within the range of variation for this character, and the calyx bristles are broad based and appressed to the calyx surface exactly as in *P. bracteatum*. The other species of section *Oxytona* which has bracts is *P. pseudo-orientale* (Fedde) Medw., but this species seldom has more than two or three bracts, and it has more slender and usually erect calyx bristles, while its tepal markings are usually broad rather than long. Identification seems fairly certain and *P. pollakii* is thus to be treated as a synonym of *P. bracteatum*.

LITERATURE CITED

- GOLDBLATT, P. 1974. Biosystematic studies in *Papaver* section *Oxytona*. Ann. Missouri Bot. Gard. 61: 264-296.
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—Peter Goldblatt, B. A. Krukoff Curator of African Botany, Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri 63110.



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