



# *Diplarche* and *Menziesia* transferred to *Rhododendron* (*Ericaceae*)

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## Key words

*Diplarche*  
*Ericaceae*  
*Menziesia*  
*Rhododendron*  
taxonomy

**Abstract** The genera *Diplarche* and *Menziesia* have been shown to be nested in *Rhododendron* based upon cladistic analyses of DNA data. Morphologically, the differences between *Diplarche* and *Menziesia* are not so great that their inclusion in *Rhododendron* is inappropriate and the species of these two genera are formally transferred to *Rhododendron*. The following new names are proposed: *Rhododendron benhallii*, *R. chamberlainii*, *R. goyozanense*, *R. × kamatae*, *R. katsumatae*, *R. kroniae*, *R. menziesii*, *R. menziesii* subsp. *glabellum*, *R. multiflorum*, *R. multiflorum* forma *bicolor*, *R. multiflorum* forma *brevicalyx*, *R. multiflorum* var. *purpureum*, *R. pentandrum*, *R. pilosum*, *R. sophistarum*, *R. yakushimense*.

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## INTRODUCTION

*Rhododendron* L. is a large and morphologically diverse genus and, due to its showy flowers, is often cultivated as ornamental plants for the garden or for sale as flowering potted plants. Plant breeders have been active in hybridising programs aimed at development of novel cultivars and there are many named cultivars available; the International Register and Checklist for *Rhododendron* cultivars that is maintained by the Royal Horticultural Society, United Kingdom, currently contains about 25 500 names (A. Leslie, pers. comm.). As far as I am aware, the only successful hybridisations, i.e., those resulting in progeny that grow reasonably well and produce flowers (whether or not the plants sexually are fully functional), have been obtained from crosses within *Rhododendron*. Consequently, reports of experimental intergeneric hybridisation between *Menziesia* Sm. and *Rhododendron* (Handa et al. 2003, 2006, Kita et al. 2005) stimulated me to consult the literature to learn more about the relationships between these two genera.

*Menziesia* and *Rhododendron* were placed, with *Diplarche* Hook.f. & Thomson and *Therorhodion* Small, in the tribe *Rhodoreae* by Stevens et al. (2004). *Therorhodion* is often placed in *Rhododendron* (Spethmann 1987, Chamberlain et al. 1996, Kurashige et al. 2001, Fang et al. 2005, Goetsch et al. 2005) which placement is supported by cladistic analysis of molecular data (Kurashige et al. 2001, Goetsch et al. 2005), although one could argue for separate recognition as it is sister to all other *Rhododendron* clades. *Menziesia* has been included in several molecular systematic studies (Goetsch et al. 2005: *M. ciliicalyx* Maxim. and *M. ferruginea* Sm., Kurashige et al. 2001: *M. multiflora* Maxim.). In Goetsch et al. (2005) the genus nested in a clade that includes species of subg. *Candidastrum* Franch., sect. *Sciadorhodion* Rehder & Wilson (incl. *R. schlippenbachii* Maxim.) and *R. vaseyi* A.Gray. In Kurashige et al. (2001, Fig. 3), *M. multiflora* forms a clade with *R. schlippenbachii* and *R. quinquefolium* Bisset & S.Moore. Goetsch et al. (2005) classify the clade that includes *Menziesia* as sect. *Sciadorhodion*. *Diplarche multiflora* Hook.f. & Thomson was

included in phylogenetic studies of *Ericaceae* by Kron et al. (2002) and in an analysis of *matK* data (Kron et al. 2002, Fig. 4A) it formed a clade with *R. stamineum* Franch. An analysis of *rbcL* data (Kron et al. 2002, Fig. 5A) does not give an indication of the position of *Diplarche* as the tree was poorly resolved, however their combined analyses of *matK* and *rbcL* data from smaller sample sets (Kron et al. 2002, Fig. 6, 7) resulted in *Diplarche* forming a clade with *Menziesia* and *Rhododendron*. The number of *Rhodoreae* species in each of the reduced sample sets was too small (7 species in Fig. 6 and 5 species in Fig. 7) for the position of *Diplarche* within *Rhododendron* to be clear. Its association with *R. stamineum* in the *matK* analysis suggests that perhaps it may belong in, or near, subg. *Choniastrum* (Franch.) Drude, but this will require testing using a greater number of species from this subgenus together with a strong sampling of species from the other higher-level taxa of *Rhododendron*, and with datasets preferably drawn from both n- and cpDNA. Chamberlain et al. (1996) list 19 species in subg. *Choniastrum* (as sect. *Choniastrum*) and three species of the subgenus were included in the studies of Goetsch et al. (2005) but these authors did not sample *Diplarche* in their *rpb2* studies.

The morphological differences between *Diplarche*, *Menziesia* and *Rhododendron* are not so great that the molecular evidence supporting inclusion of the two first-named genera in *Rhododendron* should be rejected. Given the dwarf habit and microphyllous nature of plants of *Diplarche* (Fang et al. 2005), the lack of perulae may be the result of the developing reproductive or vegetative growth being adequately protected by the dense foliage and pulvinate habit. In contrast, in *Rhododendron* the plant is often relatively large and the buds may be more exposed to the vagaries of climate; perulae presumably provide the developing organs with protection from cold and/or desiccation. Anther dehiscence by slits occurs in all three genera although slits are less common in *Rhododendron* in which dehiscence by pores is the more common condition. Viscin threads occur among the pollen grains in *Rhododendron* and presumably play a role in pollen removal from the anthers and its adhesion to pollinators. *Menziesia* is reported by Stevens et al. (2004) and Kita et al. (2005) to lack viscin threads although Copeland (1943: 543) reports them to occur. Stevens et al.

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(2004: 162) also differentiate *Menziesia* from *Rhododendron* by capsule shape, it being subspheroidal in *Menziesia* and longer than wide in *Rhododendron*. The capsule in *Diplarche* is spheroidal also (Fang et al. 2005). However, the capsule in *Rhododendron* may be very short, e.g., *R. maddenii* Hook.f., in which species the capsule is about as long as wide, and this character may not be significant for classification. In *Diplarche*, the antesealous stamens are epipetalous and this may be an autapomorphy for the taxon with respect to *Menziesia* and *Rhododendron*.

In the following section, those taxa of *Diplarche* and *Menziesia* accepted in Fang et al. (2005) and Yamazaki (1993), respectively, together with three North American *Menziesia* taxa, are transferred to *Rhododendron*.

## TAXONOMY

### *Rhododendron* sect. *Sciadorhodium* Rehder & Wilson

*Menziesia* Sm. (1791) t. 56.

#### 1. *Rhododendron behallii* Craven, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Andromeda ciliicalyx* Miq., Ann. Mus. Bot. Lugduno-Batavi 1 (1863) 30. — *Menziesia ciliicalyx* (Miq.) Maxim. (1871) 10.

Note — A new name is required as the epithet *ciliicalyx* is pre-empted in *Rhododendron* by *R. ciliicalyx* Franch. The new name honours Benjamin D. Hall (1932–), University of Washington, whose studies into the evolutionary relationships of several groups of organisms, including *Rhododendron*, have greatly informed taxonomists.

#### 2. *Rhododendron goyozanense* (M.Kikuchi) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia goyozanensis* M.Kikuchi, J. Jap. Bot. 37 (1962) 355.

#### 3. *Rhododendron* × *kamatae* (Mochizuki) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia* × *kamatae* Mochizuki, J. Phytogeogr. Taxon. 29 (1981) 108.

#### 4. *Rhododendron katsumatae* (M.Tash. & H.Hatta) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia katsumatae* M.Tash. & H.Hatta, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 99 (1986) 29.

#### 5. *Rhododendron kroniae* Craven, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Menziesia purpurea* Maxim., Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg 11 (1867) 431.

Note — A new name is required as the epithet *purpureum* is pre-empted in *Rhododendron* by *R. purpureum* (Pursh) G.Don. The replacement epithet honours Kathleen Anne Kron (1956–), Wake Forest University, who has contributed significantly to our understanding of the evolutionary and systematic relationships of *Ericaceae*.

#### 6. *Rhododendron menziesii* Craven, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Menziesia ferruginea* Sm., Pl. Icon. Ined. 3 (1791) t. 56.

Note — A new epithet is required as *ferrugineum* is pre-empted in *Rhododendron* by *R. ferrugineum* L. The replacement epithet honours Archibald Menzies (1754–1842), the collector of the type material of *M. ferruginea*, itself the type species of *Menziesia*.

#### 7. *Rhododendron menziesii* subsp. *glabellum* (A.Gray) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia glabella* A.Gray, Syn. Fl. N. Amer., ed. 2 (1878) 39. — *Menziesia ferruginea* var. *glabella* (A.Gray) M.Peck (1941) 135. — *Menziesia ferruginea* subsp. *glabella* (A.Gray) Calder & Roy L.Taylor (1965) 1398.

#### 8. *Rhododendron multiflorum* (Maxim.) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia multiflora* Maxim., Mém. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg, Sér. 7, 16, 9 (1871) 11.

#### 9. *Rhododendron multiflorum* forma *bicolor* (Makino) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia ciliicalyx* Maxim. α *bicolor* Makino, J. Jap. Bot. 1 (1916) 10. — *Menziesia multiflora* Maxim. var. *bicolor* (Makino) Ohwi (1953) 883. — *Menziesia lasiophylla* Nakai forma *bicolor* (Makino) Hiyama (1964) 126. — *Menziesia multiflora* Maxim. forma *bicolor* (Makino) T.Yamaz. (1993) 13.

#### 10. *Rhododendron multiflorum* forma *brevicalyx* (Hiyama) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia multiflora* forma *brevicalyx* Hiyama, J. Jap. Bot. 39 (1964) 127.

#### 11. *Rhododendron multiflorum* var. *purpureum* (Makino) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia ciliicalyx* Maxim. β *purpurea* Makino, J. Jap. Bot. 1 (1916) 10. — *Menziesia multiflora* Maxim. var. *purpurea* (Makino) Ohwi (1953) 883.

#### 12. *Rhododendron pentandrum* (Maxim.) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia pentandra* Maxim., Bull. Acad. Imp. Sci. Saint-Pétersbourg 11 (1867) 431.

#### 13. *Rhododendron pilosum* (Michx. ex Lam.) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Azalea pilosa* Michx. ex Lam., J. Hist. Nat. 1 (1792) 410. — *Menziesia pilosa* (Michx. ex Lam.) Pers. (1805) 420.

#### 14. *Rhododendron yakushimense* (M.Tash. & H.Hatta) Craven, *comb. nov.*

Basionym: *Menziesia yakushimensis* M.Tash. & H.Hatta, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 99 (1986) 33.

### *Rhododendron* incertae sedis

*Diplarche* Hook.f. & Thomson (1854) 382, t. 11.

Note — As discussed above, the position of *Diplarche* within *Rhododendron* is uncertain and a formal taxonomic disposition for the following two species is not possible.

#### 15. *Rhododendron chamberlainii* Craven, *nom. nov.*

Replaced synonym: *Diplarche multiflora* Hook.f. & Thomson, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 6 (1854) 383, t. 11A.

Note — A new name is required as the epithet *multiflorum* is pre-empted in *Rhododendron* by *R. multiflorum* (Maxim.) Craven (see above). The replacement epithet honours David Franklin Chamberlain (1941–), Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, who has contributed significantly to our understanding of the taxonomy of *Rhododendron*.

**16. *Rhododendron sophistarum* Craven, *nom. nov.***

Replaced synonym: *Diplarche pauciflora* Hook.f. & Thomson, Hooker's J. Bot. Kew Gard. Misc. 6 (1854) 383, t. 11B.

Note — A new name is required as the epithet *pauciflorum* is pre-empted in *Rhododendron* by *R. pauciflorum* King & Gamble. The new epithet is derived arbitrarily from the Greek, *sophistes*, master, expert, and is intended to honour those persons who strive to understand the natural world around them, to delve into the intricacies of the species on this planet, and to determine the evolutionary relationships and systematic positions of these species, etc. At a time when such knowledge is increasingly required, due to increasing pressure on natural and seminatural habitats, it is regrettable that the number of investigators is reducing around the world due to inadequate funding by governments.

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