

# Notes on taxonomic status of *Lophozia alpestris*

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## ABSTRACT

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Taxonomic status of *Lophozia alpestris* is discussed. Correct identity for the Indian records of this species is provided to avoid further confusion.

**Key-words:** *Lophozia alpestris*, taxonomy, identity.

## INTRODUCTION

*Lophozia alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) A. Evans was reported from India, for the first time, from Kashmir by Kashyap and Chopra (1932). The species could not be collected for a long time from anywhere in India, hence listed in all subsequent censuses on the basis of Kashyap and Chopra's (1932) report (Chopra 1943, Parihar 1961-62, Parihar et al. 1994, Bapna & Kachroo 2000). Recently, Srivastava and Rawat (2010) reported it from Uttarakhand on the basis of collection made in 1980 from Hemkund and in 1999 from en route to Valley of Flowers (1.5 km away from Ghangharia) as *Leiocolea alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) Isov.

## TAXONOMIC STATUS

The taxonomy of *Lophozia alpestris*, however, is rather complex. The basionym of this species is *Jungermannia alpestris* Schleich. ex F. Weber 1815. Evans (1901) transferred this species to *Lophozia* and made a new combination as *Lophozia alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) A. Evans. It was accepted by the later workers (Macvicar 1912, Müller 1954, Schuster 1969). However, Grolle (1971) observed that the type of *Jungermannia alpestris* Schleich. ex F. Weber belongs to the name *Lophozia collaris* (Nees)

Dumort. 1835, which was unanimously accepted by the Nomenclature Committee (Zijlstra 1999). The Committee agreed that type of *Jungermannia alpestris* belonged to the species for which the name *Lophozia collaris* (Nees) Dumort. was in use. Until Grolle's typification of *J. alpestris*, however, the name *L. alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) A. Evans was wrongly used in the sense of *L. sudetica* (Huebener) Grolle, and the Committee formally rejected the name *J. alpestris*.

Grolle and Long (2000) in another publication followed the same and treated *J. alpestris* Schleich. ex F. Weber. as nomenclatural synonym and *Leiocolea alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) Isov. as heterotypic synonym under *Leiocolea collaris* (Nees) Schljakov [*Lophozia collaris* (Nees) Dumort.]. Konstantinova et al. (2009) followed the same and accepted *Leiocolea collaris* (Nees) Schljakov. In the same year, Konstantinova and Vilnet (2009) established a new genus *Pseudolophozia* Konstant. & Vilnet and made a new combination for *L. sudetica* (Nees ex Huebener) Grolle as *Pseudolophozia sudetica* (Nees ex Huebener) Konstant. & Vilnet and synonymized *Jungermannia alpestris* auct. non Schleich. ex F. Weber [= *Lophozia alpestris* auct. non (Schleich. ex F. Weber) A. Evans] under it.

The recent application of the name *Leiocolea alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) Isov. to the plants from Valley of Flowers by Srivastava and Rawat (2010), therefore, does not conform to the rules of nomenclature, hence need to be corrected as *Leiocolea collaris* (Nees) Schljakov. The correct nomenclature of the species, particularly in this context, will therefore be as follows.

***Leiocolea collaris* (Nees) Schljakov**

Novist. Syst. Plant. Non Vasc.13: 228. 1976.

**Basionym:** *Jungermannia collaris* Nees, Fl. Crypt. Erlang. 15. 1817.

**Synonym:** *Lophozia collaris* (Nees) Dumort., Recueil Observ. Jungerm. 17. 1835.

*Jungermannia alpestris* Schleich. ex F. Weber, Hist. Musc. Hepat. Prodr. 80. 1815.

*Lophozia alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) A. Evans in Kennedy & Collins, Rhodora 3: 181. 1901; Kashyap & Chopra, Liverw. W. Himal. Panjab Pl. 2: 79. 1932.

*Leiocolea alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) Isov. in Ann. Bot. Fenn. 15: 80. 1978.

*Leiocolea alpestris* (Schleich. ex F. Weber) Isov.: sensu Srivastava & Rawat, Geophytology 40: 88. 2010, **syn. nov.**

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