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Taxa of the *Ranunculus auricomus* group recognized as species by Marklund in 1940

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Four species were recognized by Marklund in 1940. *Ranunculus altior* Marklund is here given subspecific status, as *R. fallax* subsp. *altior* (Marklund) Kvist & Jalas. *R. auricomus* sensu Marklund and *R. fallax* sensu Marklund were later described as *R. auricomus* subsp. *acutiusculus* Marklund and *R. fallax* subsp. *mendax* Marklund, respectively. *R. obtusulus* Marklund has proved identical with *R. auricomus* L. subsp. *auricomus*, as lectotypified by Kvist. Lectotypes are here selected for *Ranunculus altior* Marklund and *R. obtusulus* Marklund.

Key words: *Ranunculus auricomus*, *R. fallax*, nomenclature, taxonomy

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At the very beginning of his intensive work on the taxonomy of the Eastern Fennoscandian apomicts of the *Ranunculus auricomus* group, Marklund (1940) published descriptions of four taxa, which he at that time considered distinct species: *Ranunculus altior* "n. sp.", *R. auricomus* "L. emend. Rozanova", *R. fallax* "(W. et G. Schur)", and *R. obtusulus* "n. sp.".

From the fifties onwards, having gained deeper insight into the taxonomy of the group, Marklund (1954, 1961, 1965a and b, Rousi 1956) regarded the Finnish taxa as subspecies, belonging to four species, *Ranunculus auricomus*, *R. fallax*, *R. monophyllus* and *R. cassubicus*. This system soon became practically the only one used throughout Fennoscandia, and it has also gained some foothold farther south (e.g. Demarsin 1968, Engel 1968).

Being fully employed in the recognition and description of the hundreds of taxa of the *Ranunculus auricomus* group, Gunnar Marklund later paid little or no attention to revising the nomenclature of the taxa distinguished by him at an early phase. It is our hope that the notes that follow may serve to fill some evident taxonomical and nomenclatural gaps and, consequently, to stabilize the nomenclatural usage in this polymorphic group of apomicts.

1. *Ranunculus auricomus* L. subsp. *auricomus*

Lectotype (selected by Kvist 1987: 76–77): LINN 715.22.

Syn. *Ranunculus obtusulus* Marklund, Memoranda Soc. Fauna Fl. Fennica 16:49 (1940). — Lectotype (selected here): Finland, Nylandia, Pornainen, Laukkoski, undicht bewaldete Weide nahe der Landstrassenbrücke, 2.6.1939 Marklund (= specimen on the right on Plate 2 in Marklund 1940; see p. 54). This and other syntypes listed by Marklund (1940: 51).

R. auricomus subsp. *obtusulus* (Marklund) Marklund, Soc. Scient. Fennica Årsb. 31 B(3):13 (1954), nomen inval. (sine indic. basion.).

R. auricomus subsp. *obtusulus* (Marklund) Marklund ex Olofsson, Acta Soc. Fauna Fl. Fennica 76(3):25 (1961), nomen inval. (sine indic. basion.).

R. auricomus subsp. *obtusulus* (Marklund) Marklund ex Fagerström, Acta Soc. Fauna Fl. Fennica 78(1):8 (1965).

Kvist (1987: 76) pointed out the identity of *Ranunculus obtusulus* with LINN 715.22, proposed by him as the lectotype of *R. auricomus* L.

Outside Finland (not uncommon in the south, extending northwards to c. 65°45'N in Kemi) and S. and C. Sweden, also found in Norway (Julin 1980: 93, map). Reported from N. France by Engel (1968: 85).

2. *R. auricomus* subsp. *acutiusculus* Marklund

Flora Fennica 3:12 (1961).

Holotype: Finland, Regio aböensis, Lohja/Lojo, Jalas-

saari, 16.6.1940 *Marklund* (H!) (Plate 4 in Marklund 1961, specimen on the left; see p. 123).

Syn. *Ranunculus auricomus* sensu Marklund ("L., emend. Rozanova"), Mem. Soc. Fauna Fl. Fennica 16:49 (1940), non L. sensu stricto (see above).

Ranunculus communis Marklund, Luonnon Ystävä 45:83 (1941), nomen nudum.

Marklund (1940: 49) gave a detailed description of his *Ranunculus auricomus* "L., emend. Rozanova", citing "*R. typicus* Korsh., non autem *R. auricomus* L., emend. W. Koch" as synonymous. In a paper (in Finnish) published in the following year, however, Marklund (1941: 83) concluded that a number of closely related microspecies seem to be included in *R. auricomus* sensu Rozanova, in contrast to *R. auricomus* sensu W. Koch, which is restricted to one single Swiss microspecies. Consequently, Marklund considered it best to use the binomial only in a collective sense, and to rename the Finnish microspecies in question (which he characterized as more common than all the others) *R. communis*.

The "typical specimen" reproduced in Marklund (1940: plate 1; p. 54) could be traced among the large amount of sheets later identified by Marklund (1961: 13–16) as *R. auricomus* subsp. *acutiusculus*. This specimen derives from [Finland], Nylandia, Helsinge (at present: Vantaa/Vanda), Königstedt, Wiesenböschung am Flüsschen Vanda å, 7.6.1939 *Marklund* (H!).

The taxon is fairly common in S. and S.W. Finland, with scattered localities in C. Sweden (Julin 1980: 16, map).

3. *Ranunculus fallax* (Wimmer & Grab.) Sloboda subsp. *altior* (Marklund) Kvist & Jalas, comb. et stat. nov.

Basionym. *Ranunculus altior* Marklund, Mem. Soc. Fauna Fl. Fennica 16:51 (1940). — Lectotype (selected here). Finland, Nylandia, Helsinge (at present: Vantaa/Vanda), Königstedt, Uferhain am Flüsschen Vanda å, 7.6.1939 *Marklund* (Marklund 1940: 54, Plate 3) (H!).

As noted by Marklund (1940: 52), the present taxon is not very close to *Ranunculus fallax* sensu Marklund; in several features it bears a greater resemblance to *R. auricomus*. We follow Marklund (1965a) who, nevertheless, describes as subspecies of *R. fallax* coll. several similarly intermediate taxa (e.g. *R. fallax* subsp. *alsophilus*, subsp. *connectens*, subsp. *erythrogenius*, subsp. *orphnodes* and subsp. *prolixitorus*). See also Marklund 1965b: 412–413.

Having described *Ranunculus altior* in 1940, Marklund evidently did not mention it in any of his later publications. Besides the lectotype illustrated in Plate 3, a number of specimens from the provinces of Nylandia, Satakunta and Tavastia australis/South Häme are listed by Marklund (1940: 53). Those marked with an (S) derive from the herbaria of schoolchildren, and have evidently been removed from H because their wild origin was uncertain. Of the remaining material, the specimen from "Satakunta, Karkku, Kauniais, 1876 A. Hjelt" (H!) has later been referred to *R. fallax* subsp. *platycolpoides* Marklund (1965a: 60), and that from "Tavastia australis, Tammerfors, Pyynikki, 1934 G. Rydman" (H!) to *R. fallax* subsp. *leptophyllarius* Marklund (1965a: 46).

In the following, *Ranunculus fallax* subsp. *altior* (in the narrow sense understood here), subsp. *leptophyllarius* and subsp. *platycolpoides* are compared with each other, using data partly derived from Marklund (1965a: 45; subsp. *leptophyllarius* versus subsp. *platycolpoides*), partly from our own observations on the material in H:

- a leafless basal sheath (although decaying, and easily overlooked in herbarium material) may be present in all three taxa,

- the basal sinus of the basal leaves is considerably wider (aperture 120° or more) in subsp. *leptophyllarius* and subsp. *platycolpoides* than in subsp. *altior* (aperture 70–100°); especially in subsp. *platycolpoides* the basal leaves may be completely truncate,

- the hairiness of the basal leaves may be slightly different in the three subspecies, in that the upper surface of the leaves of subsp. *altior* is hairy along the veins only, that of subsp. *platycolpoides* being sparsely hairy throughout,

- the stem leaf segments of subsp. *altior* are irregularly laciniate, with rather few narrow lacinulae and smaller teeth; in subsp. *leptophyllarius* the lacinulae are especially long and narrow and concentrated in the middle of the segments, whilst those of subsp. *platycolpoides* point forwards, are fewer and shorter, and are often present on only one side,

- perfect flowers (all five honey leaves present) commonly characterize the material of subsp. *altior*; the honey leaves are mainly fewer than three in subsp. *platycolpoides*, and they may remain undeveloped in subsp. *leptophyllarius*,

- the anthers are evidently longer (c. 2.5 mm)

in subsp. *altior* than in subsp. *leptophyllarius* (up to 2.3 mm) and subsp. *platycolpoides* (1.0–2.0 mm),

- the carpel is longer (3–4 mm) in subsp. *altior* than in the other two subspecies (2.3–3 mm)

- the receptacle is hairy in all three subspecies,
- the style (and hence the rostrum of the carpel) is longer (rostrum 1.2–1.5 mm) in subsp. *leptophyllarius* than in the other two subspecies (rostrum 1.0–1.2 mm).

Not far from the type locality, *Ranunculus fallax* subsp. *altior* has been collected in a few other localities in the province of Nylandia, as follows (all identified by Marklund on the label as “*R. auricomus* subsp. *altior*”).

Helsinki/Helsingfors: Käpylä/Åggelby, 1912 Häyrén; Koskela, 1964 Valta. — Nurmiärvi, 1959 Marklund. — Vanataa/Vanda: Seutula/Sjöskog, 1948 Holmberg.

Some additional material is presumably hidden under some of the published subspecies names.

4. *Ranunculus fallax* (Wimmer & Grab.) Sloboda subsp. *mendax* Marklund

Flora Fennica 4: 47 (1965).

Holotype: Finland, Nylandia, Pornainen/Borgnäs, Laukkoski, Hain N der Landstrassenbrücke, 2.6.1939 Marklund (Plate 46 in Marklund 1965a: 150; also as Plate 4 in Marklund 1940, and Fig. 1 in Marklund 1941: 84) (H!).

Syn. *Ranunculus fallax* sensu Marklund, Mem. Soc. Fauna Flora Fennica 16: 53 (1940), non *R. auricomus* var. *fallax* Wimmer & Grab.

Ranunculus mendax Marklund, Luonnon Ystävä 45: 84 (1941), nomen nudum.

Common in the provinces of Nylandia and Tavastia australis/South Häme (northwards to Kuhmoinen, c. 61°33'N), reaching westwards to the eastern parts of Regio aböensis (Lohja/Lojo) and eastwards to Kouvolan, province of Savonia australis/South Savo (see Marklund 1965a: 47–50), and Vehkalahti, province of Karelia australis/South Karjala.

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