Nomenclatural Changes in Western North American Amsinckiinae (Boraginaceae)

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ABSTRACT. Three recent phylogenetic studies have used DNA sequence data to examine evolutionary relationships in Amsinckiinae (Boraginaceae). In each of these studies, the genus Plagiobothrys Fisch. & C. A. Mey. has been recovered as non-monophyletic. So that only monophyletic groups are recognized, two new genus names are provided here: Amsinckiopsis (I. M. Johnst.) Guilliams, Hasenstab & B. G. Baldwin and Simpsonanthus Guilliams, Hasenstab & B. G. Baldwin. The new combination P. collinus (Phil.) I. M. Johnst. var. pringlei (Greene) Guilliams & B. G. Baldwin is given for plants from Arizona that were found to be phylogenetically nested within P. collinus. The genus name Sonnea Greene is lectotypified.

Key words: Amsinckia, Amsinckiinae, Amsinckiopsis, Boraginaceae, Plagiobothrys, Simpsonanthus, Sonnea.

The genus Plagiobothrys Fisch. & C. A. Mey. (Boraginaceae) has been the subject of three recent molecular phylogenetic studies (Hasenstab-Lehman & Simpson, 2012; Guilliams, 2015; Simpson et al., 2017). These efforts to elucidate phylogenetic relationships using DNA sequence data have revealed the non-monophyly of Plagiobothrys. Although the majority of minimum-rank taxa (species, subspecies, and varieties) in the genus form a clade that will retain the name Plagiobothrys, five have been found to be more closely related to other genera in subtribe Amsinckiinae. Plagiobothrys jonesii A. Gray and both varieties of P. kingii (S. Watson) A. Gray comprise Plagiobothrys sect. Amsinckiopsis I. M. Johnst. They have been found to be more closely related to the genus Amsinckia Lehm. than to the above-mentioned clade representing Plagiobothrys s. str. Plagiobothrys glomeratus A. Gray and P. hispidus A. Gray, corresponding to Plagiobothrys sect. Sonnea (Greene) I. M. Johnst., form another clade that is recovered in various positions in the broader Amsinckiinae tree. These phylogenetic patterns are discussed in detail in the next section.

With two current floristic treatments on the genus underway (Guilliams et al., 2020; Guilliams et al., in prep.), a nomenclatural solution to the non-monophyly of Plagiobothrys is required. So that only monophyletic groups are recognized taxonomically, presented here are two new genus names and associated new combinations for taxa therein, the lectotypification of the existing genus name Sonnea Greene to which taxa of Plagiobothrys sect. Sonnea are better referred, and a new combination within Plagiobothrys.

SUMMARY OF RECENT PHYLOGENETIC ANALYSES

Hasenstab-Lehman and Simpson (2012) performed the first well-sampled phylogenetic study focusing on Amsinckiinae using DNA sequence data from the internal transcribed spacer (ITS) region of the 18S-26S nuclear ribosomal cistron (nrDNA) and the non-coding trnL-trnF spacer of the chloroplast genome (cpDNA). The study included 64 samples of 60 taxa of Amsinckiinae from nearly all recognized genera. Phylogenetic analyses were performed using parsimony, maximum likelihood, and Bayesian approaches, with one goal being to assess the correspondence between evolutionary history and current generic circumscriptions. In the parsimony analysis, the four samples included of Amsinckia were recovered as a monophyletic group with strong support (100 bootstrap support value [BS]), with this clade of Amsinckia sister to one sample of Plagiobothrys kingii var. kingii with no support (< 70 BS). Plagiobothrys jonesii was recovered as sister to a clade of Greeneocarpus Gürke & Harms–Plagiobothrys s. str., but with no support (< 70 BS). In the maximum likelihood and Bayesian analyses, P. kingii var. kingii and P. jonesii formed a clade with no support (< 70 BS, posterior probability [PP] not reported), sister to a strongly supported clade of Amsinckia (100 BS/1 PP). This pattern is summarized in Figure 1A. Plagiobothrys hispidus was recovered as sister to a clade of Eremoncarya...
Greene–Oreocarya Greene in the parsimony, maximum likelihood, and Bayesian analyses, although statistical support for this relationship was only strong in the Bayesian analysis (0.97 PP).

Guilliams (2015), in a dissertation focusing on the systematics of the genus Plagiobothrys, used DNA sequence data from nrDNA (ITS and the external transcribed spacer [ETS] regions) and six regions of cpDNA (psbJ-petA intergenic spacer, rpl16 intron, rps16 intron, 3’trnK intron, 3’psb16-5’trnK intergenic spacer, trnL-trnF spacer) to infer relationships within Amsinckiinae.

The nrDNA dataset included 179 samples of 120 taxa of Amsinckiinae, while the cpDNA dataset was reduced to 143 samples due to lack of sequence variation in one taxonomically diverse clade of Plagiobothrys s. str. (section Allocarya I. M. Johnst., not discussed further here). Three samples each of P. jonesii and P. kingii were included along with 13 samples of Amsinckia, representing nearly all recognized taxa in the latter genus. Three samples each of P. glomeratus and P. hispidus were also included. Maximum likelihood and Bayesian phylogenetic analyses were performed on each
dataset separately and then on a combined nrDNA + cpDNA matrix. *Amsinckia*, *P. jonesii*, and *P. kingii* were each reciprocally monophyletic with moderate to strong support in all analyses (Fig. 1B; *Amsinckia* and *P. jonesii* both 100 BS/1 PP, *P. kingii* 62 BS/1 PP). Although support for relationships among these taxa in the combined-data analysis was lacking in the maximum likelihood analysis, the Bayesian analysis recovered *Amsinckia* sister to *P. kingii* with strong support (1 PP), and this clade sister to *P. jonesii* with strong support (0.99 PP). Samples of *P. glomeratus* and *P. hispidus*, the two members of *Plagiobothrys* sect. *Sonnea*, formed a clade with strong support in all analyses (100 BS/1 PP). This clade was sister to a morphologically diverse clade comprising the genera *Pectocarya* DC. ex Meisn., *Harpagonella* A. Gray, *Dasysnotus* I. M. Johnst., *Oreocarya*, and *Eremocarya*. This grouping had strongest statistical support in the Bayesian analysis (0.93 PP).

Simpson et al. (2017) used the high-throughput sequencing technique, genome skimming, to generate data to evaluate relationships among 139 samples of Amsinckiinae, including representative samples from all major groupings (e.g., sections) of all genera of the subtribe. This sequencing technique resulted in the recovery of three large sequence datasets for each sample: a nearly complete cpDNA, a nearly complete nrDNA consensus, and 50 mitochondrial loci (mtDNA). Maximum likelihood and Bayesian phylogenetic analyses were performed for each dataset. In both analyses of each genomic dataset, the pattern found by Guilliams (2015) was confirmed: *Plagiobothrys jonesii*, *P. kingii* var. *harknessii* (Greene) Jeps., and *P. kingii* var. *kingii* formed a clade with *Amsinckia*, usually with strong support (≥ 70 BS, ≥ 0.95 PP). In this clade, *Amsinckia* was strongly supported as monophyletic, with the *Amsinckia* clade sister to the one included sample of *P. kingii*. The clade of *Amsinckia*–*P. kingii* was sister to the one included sample of *P. jonesii*. This pattern is depicted in Figure 1C. Section *Sonnea* taxa *P. glomeratus* and *P. hispidus* were recovered as a clade with strong support in all analyses, but placement varied in all analyses. In the cpDNA analysis, section *Sonnea* was sister to a monophyletic *Plagiobothrys* s. str. In the nrDNA analysis, the lineage giving rise to section *Sonnea* emerged from a deep phylogenetic split in the subtribe, sister to a diverse clade comprising most other genera sampled. In the mtDNA analysis, section *Sonnea* was sister to *Greneocharis*.

In summary, all three previous phylogenetic analyses that have focused on Amsinckiinae have recovered *P. jonesii* and *P. kingii* as more closely related to *Amsinckia* than to *Plagiobothrys* s. str. *Amsinckia* was recovered as monophyletic with strong support in each of these previous studies. Where multiple exemplars of *P. jonesii* and *P. kingii* have been included (Guilliams, 2015), these taxa too have been recovered as monophyletic with strong support. The pattern of *P. kingii* as sister to *Amsinckia* was recovered for the first time in Hasenstab-Lehman and Simpson (2012), and corroborated in both subsequent studies. Placement of *P. jonesii* as sister to *Amsinckia*–*P. kingii* was found by Guilliams (2015) in a study with expanded sampling and a larger sequence dataset, and then again by Simpson et al. (2017) with genomic data. Section *Sonnea*, including *P. glomeratus* and *P. hispidus*, was recovered as monophyletic with strong support in all analyses where more than one sample from the section was included (Guilliams, 2015; Simpson et al., 2017). However, section *Sonnea* has been variously placed in the Amsinckiinae outside of *Plagiobothrys* s. str., usually without strong statistical support.

**MORPHOLOGICAL SYNAPOMORPHIES**

Morphological synapomorphies support the *Amsinckia* clade, the *Amsinckia*–*Plagiobothrys* *kingii*–*P. jonesii* clade, and the section *Sonnea* clade. Morphological synapomorphies for the former two clades are shown along with a summary tree diagram in Figure 2. The genus *Amsinckia*, strongly supported in each of the molecular phylogenetic analyses, is united by two morphological synapomorphies: orange to yellow-orange corollas and bifid cotyledons. Within Amsinckiinae, orange to yellow-orange corollas are unique to *Amsinckia* (although yellow corollas separately evolved in two species of the genus *Oreocarya*) and serve as an excellent diagnostic character for the genus, especially in the field. Also in the subtribe, bifid cotyledons are found only in *Amsinckia* (all taxa) and in a few species of South American *Cryptantha* (Grau, 1983), in which they evolved independently. The clade of *Amsinckia*–*P. kingii*–*P. jonesii* is united in having an elongate attachment scar that is positioned along the adaxial or “ventral” keel of the nutlet, and a hirsute to hispid vestiture throughout. Both of these features were previously described by Johnston (1923: 58–59), who stated of *P. jonesii* and *P. kingii*:

> These species differ from those in genuine *Plagiobothrys* by having a coarse hispid pubescence and nutlet which superficially closely simulate the nutlets of *Amsinckia*. ... The nutlets have a submedian scar that is borne, not at or below the lower end of the ventral keel, but surrounded by and wedged in between the pericarpial margins that form the keel and consequently appearing at first glance to be borne upon it. The striking nutlet difference seems of fundamental [sic] importance and were other important concomitant characters forthcoming I should feel that the group merits generic recognition.

The position of the attachment scar well above the middle of the adaxial or “ventral” surface of the nutlet
Morphological synapomorphies

1. Elongate attachment scar, elevated along adaxial keel
2. Hispid vestiture
3. Orange corollas
4. Bifid cotyledons

Amsinckia
- A. calycina
- A. carinata
- A. douglasianna
- A. eastwoodiae
- A. falcata
- A. grandiflora
- A. intermedia
- A. luna
- A. lycopsisdes
- A. menziesii
- A. retrorsa
- A. spectabilis var. microcarpa
- A. spectabilis var. spectabilis
- A. tessellata var. gloriosa
- A. tessellata var. tessellata
- A. vernicosa

Amsinckiopsis
- A. kingii var. harknessii
- A. kingii var. kingii

Simpsonanthes
- S. jonesii

Figure 2. Morphological synapomorphies of the clade consisting of Simpsonanthes Guilliams, Hasenstab & B. G. Baldwin—(Amsinckiopsis (I. M. Johnst.) Guilliams, Hasenstab & B. G. Baldwin—Amsinckia Lehm.). Characters 1 and 2—elongate attachment scar, elevated along the adaxial keel and hispid vestiture—evolved in the lineage leading to the common ancestor of the Simpsonanthes—(Amsinckiopsis—Amsinckia) clade. Characters 3 and 4—orange corollas and bifid cotyledons—evolved in the lineage leading to the common ancestor of Amsinckia. Photograph 1 by Michael Simpson, photograph 2 by Steve Matson, photograph 3 by Barry Rice, photograph 4 by C. Matt Guilliams.
is a synapomorphy for the two species of the section Sonnea clade (Fig. 3). This type of attachment scar is found in no other species of the subtribe.

Finally, the analyses of Guilliams (2015) demonstrated that all samples of Plagiobothrys pringlei Greene were phylogenetically nested among samples representing the varieties of P. collinus (Phil.) I. M. Johnst. All of these taxa possess an elongate stalklike structure bearing the attachment scar, unique in the genus and the subtribe.

Nomenclatural changes are necessary to recognize monophyletic groups in the Amsinckiinae, given the phylogenetic patterns described above. Two new names at genus rank are described here for Plagiobothrys jonesii and P. kingii, along with new combinations for infraspecific taxa in each. These two new genera are readily distinguished from others in Amsinckiinae and their recognition allows Amsinckia to be retained in its traditional sense, which is much more readily diagnosable without expansion of the genus to include P. jonesii and P. kingii. Given the monophyly of section Sonnea and the varying phylogenetic placement of the section Sonnea clade outside of Plagiobothrys, the older genus name Sonnea (lectotypified here) should be used for
P. glomeratus and P. hispidus. Lastly, the discovery by Guilliams (2015) that P. pringlei is nested within a deeper clade of the different varieties of P. collinus would render the latter species paraphyletic as currently circumscribed. A new varietal combination is therefore made for P. pringlei within P. collinus.

**Taxonomic Treatment**


Annuals, 1–4 dm tall, hirsute and villous, taprooted. Stems ascending to erect, 1 to several. Leaves alternate, basal and cauline, simple, sessile, basal blades oblanceolate, cauline blades linear to lanceolate, 2–6 cm, surfaces hirsute to hispid. Inflorescences circinate, scorpioid cymes, glomerate, not much elongating in fruit, bracteate near base, proximal bracts sometimes scorpioid cymes, elongate, proximally bracteate; pedicels 0–6 mm, fruit, bracteate near base, proximal bracts sometimes scorpioid cymes, elongate, proximally bracteate; pedicels 0–6 mm, abaxial nutlet sculpturing and an elongate attachment scar positioned along a raised, adaxial keel.

Notes. *Amsinckiopsis* is distinctive in *Amsinckiinae* in having the combination of hirsute to hispid vestiture throughout; non-glomerate, circinate, scorpioid cymes; white corollas; and nutlets with tessellate abaxial nutlet sculpturing and an elongate attachment scar positioned along a raised, adaxial keel.


**Diagnosis.** *Simpsonanthus* is distinctive in *Amsinckiinae* in having the combination of hirsute to hispid vestiture throughout; non-glomerate, circinate, scorpioid cymes; white corollas; and nutlets with tessellate abaxial nutlet sculpturing and an elongate attachment scar positioned along a raised, adaxial keel.

**Notes.** *Simpsonanthus* are distinctive in *Amsinckiinae* in having the combination of hirsute to hispid vestiture throughout; more or less glomerate, circinate, scorpioid cymes; white corollas; and nutlets with rugose and papillate sculpture and an elongate attachment scar positioned along a raised, adaxial keel. *Simpsonanthus* differs from *Plagiobothrys* in having more or less glomerate inflorescences, larger corolla limbs (1–3 mm vs. 4–7 mm), minute fomices, and nutlets with a sessellate abaxial surface (vs. rugose and papillate in *Amsinckiopsis*; Fig. 4).


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**Distribution, habitat, and phenology.** *Amsinckiopsis* is known from southeastern Oregon and eastern California to western Utah; it is most common in Nevada. Taxa usually occur on sandy and gravelly substrates, valleys and on bajadas from approximately 1200 to 2100 m (4000 to 7000 ft.) in open vegetation types. Flowering occurs from April to June (July).

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to Mexico, where it is known from northwestern Sonora and from Isla Angel de la Guarda at Refugio Bay in the Gulf of California. It occurs on sandy, gravelly, and rocky substrates in washes and on slopes from ca. 90 to 1770 m (30 to 5800 ft.) in desert vegetation including creosote bush scrub and pinyon-juniper woodland. Flowering typically occurs from March to May, sometimes in January, February, and June.

**Etymology.** *Simpsonanthus* is named after Michael G. Simpson, Professor Emeritus of Biology at San Diego State University, who has contributed greatly to the study of Amsinckiinae.


**Notes.** *Plagiobothrys pringlei* was originally published under the name *Echidiocarya arizonica* A. Gray in 1876. Greene (1887) transferred it to *Plagiobothrys* as *P. pringlei* Greene, choosing a new specific epithet because “arizonicus” was already in use for *P. arizonicus* (A. Gray) Greene ex A. Gray. Absence of an available name at varietal rank for *P. pringlei* permits us to use either “arizonicus” or “pringlei” for the new varietal combination in *P. collinus*. Given the longstanding recognition of this taxon under the name *P. pringlei*, we use the epithet “pringlei” in our new combination.

**LECTOTYPIFICATION OF SONNEA**

When Greene named *Sonnea* in 1887, his circumscription included five minimum-rank taxa. Based upon the phylogenetic evidence discussed above, only *S. glomerata* (A. Gray) Greene and *S. hispida* (A. Gray) Greene are retained in *Sonnea*; the other three taxa, *Plagiobothrys*...
1. Plants perennial; leaves relatively large, generally \( 5 \) cm long; nutlets (3.5–)5–12 mm long.

2. Nutlets not glochidiate. 

3. Corollas green to lemon-yellow to brown, inflorescences somewhat bracteate; plants of Mexico. 

4. Cauline leaves petiolate, pedicels not recurved in fruit, stems glabrous.

5. Fruits burlike; sepals in fruit very unequal, upper 2 (2)2.


7. Nutlets with ventral groove extending to apex or subapically; attachment scars generally recessed or depressed.

8. Corolla limbs and tubes bright yellow or orange; cotyledons 2-lobed. 

9. Corolla limbs and tubes white to cream-colored; cotyledons not lobed.

10. Plant vestiture various, but not coarsely hisrate to hispid.

11. Cymules glomerate; nutlet attachment scars above nutlet middle. 

12. Plants annual, generally wider than tall, often rounded to cushionlike; taproots red or purple when depressed.

13. Sepals fused proximally, tubular, tube circumsissile in fruit; gynobase \( < \) nutlet. 

14. Plants biennial or perennial; leaves basal or tufted; nutlets smooth, papillate, tuberculate, or muricate.

15. Corolla limbs bright yellow or orange; cotyledons 2-lobed. 

16. Plants annual, flowers chasmogamous; nutlets lanceolate, lance-ovate, or ovate, usually homomorphic, margin rounded or angled at the base and then narrowly ridged or winged, densely or sparsely tuberculate, tubercules usually whitish.


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**REVISED KEY TO GENERA OF THE AMSINCKIINAE (MODIFIED FROM SIMPSON, 2007; KELLEY ET AL., 2012; AND COHEN, 2015)**

1. Plants annual, biennial, or perennial; leaves relatively small, generally \( < 5 \) cm long; nutlets \( < 5 \) mm long.

5. Fruits not burlike; sepals in fruit ± equal or, if unequal, upper 2 (2)2.

6. Mature nutlets \( < 5 \) mm long.

7. Nutlets without ventral groove, generally with ventral ridge distal to attachment scar.

8. Corolla limbs and tubes bright yellow or orange; cotyledons 2-lobed. 

9. Corolla limbs and tubes white to cream-colored; cotyledons not lobed.

10. Plant vestiture various, but not coarsely hisrate to hispid.

11. Cymules glomerate; nutlet attachment scars above nutlet middle. 

12. Plants annual, generally wider than tall, often rounded to cushionlike; taproots red or purple when dry (often staining herbarium paper); flower bracts present.

13. Sepals fused proximally, tubular, tube circumsissile in fruit; gynobase \( < \) nutlet. 

14. Plants biennial or perennial; leaves basal or tufted; nutlets smooth, papillate, tuberculate, or muricate, apex narrowly acute to acuminate, ventral groove apex almost to nutlet apex.

15. Corolla limbs bright yellow or orange; cotyledons 2-lobed. 

16. Plants annual, flowers chasmogamous; nutlets lanceolate, lance-ovate, or ovate, usually homomorphic, margin rounded or angled, not ridged or winged (except *Cryptantha oxygona* (A. Gray) Greene, *C. cycloptera* (Greenm.) Sutorý (monotypic)).

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