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Short Communication

# *Rosa davurica* var. *rubro-stipulata* (Rosaceae), the correct name for *R. davurica* var. *alpestris*

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## Abstract

The name *Rosa davurica* var. *alpestris* (Nakai) Kitag. was published in 1979 as a new combination based on *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *alpestris* Nakai. It is generally accepted as a deciduous shrub occurring in Russia, Manchuria, Japan, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula and is distinguished by the presence of eglandular leaves. *Rosa rubro-stipullata* var. *alpestris* was originally described as a new variety with a leaf size relatively smaller than that of *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *rubro-stipullata*. However, the observation of various specimens showed the leaf size of var. *alpestris* to be of minor importance, and it was included in var. *rubro-stipullata* as a synonym. Due to the priority of autonyms, a new combination is required to replace *R. davurica* var. *alpestris*. Additionally, it should be noted that the epithet "*rubro-stipullata*" is derived from the Latin word "*stipula*" rather than "*stipulla*." Therefore, for this variety, we propose a new combination, *R. davurica* var. *rubro-stipulata* (Nakai) D. C. Son & Y. S. Kim, **comb. nov. & stat. nov.**

**Key words:** autonym, nomenclature, priority, Shenzhen Code



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*Rosa davurica* var. *alpestris* (Nakai) Kitag. is a deciduous shrub distributed through Russia, Manchuria, Japan, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula. *Rosa davurica* Pall. is remarkable because of the variable shape of its leaflets, from narrowly to broadly elliptic, and the absence or presence of glands on their lower surface. The varietal name is commonly applied to plants of *R. davurica* with eglandular leaflets (Kitagawa 1979; Lee 2003; Ohba 2001). Further morphological observations showed that var. *alpestris* is readily distinguished from var. *davurica* by the presence of eglandular rachis and petiole, abaxial surface of calyx lobe sparsely glandular or eglandular, and flower 2~3 cm in diam. (Fig. 1; Table 1).

*Rosa davurica* var. *alpestris* (Nakai) Kitag. was published in 1979, as a new combination based on *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *alpestris* Nakai. *Rosa rubro-stipullata* var. *alpestris* Nakai was originally described as a new variety with a leaf size relatively smaller than that of *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *rubro-stipullata* (Nakai 1916). However, based on several specimens, including type specimens of var. *alpestris* and var. *rubro-stipullata*, we observed that although the leaf size of var. *alpestris* was smaller than that of var. *rubro-stipullata*, this character does not correlate with any other morphological trait or geographical feature, and it

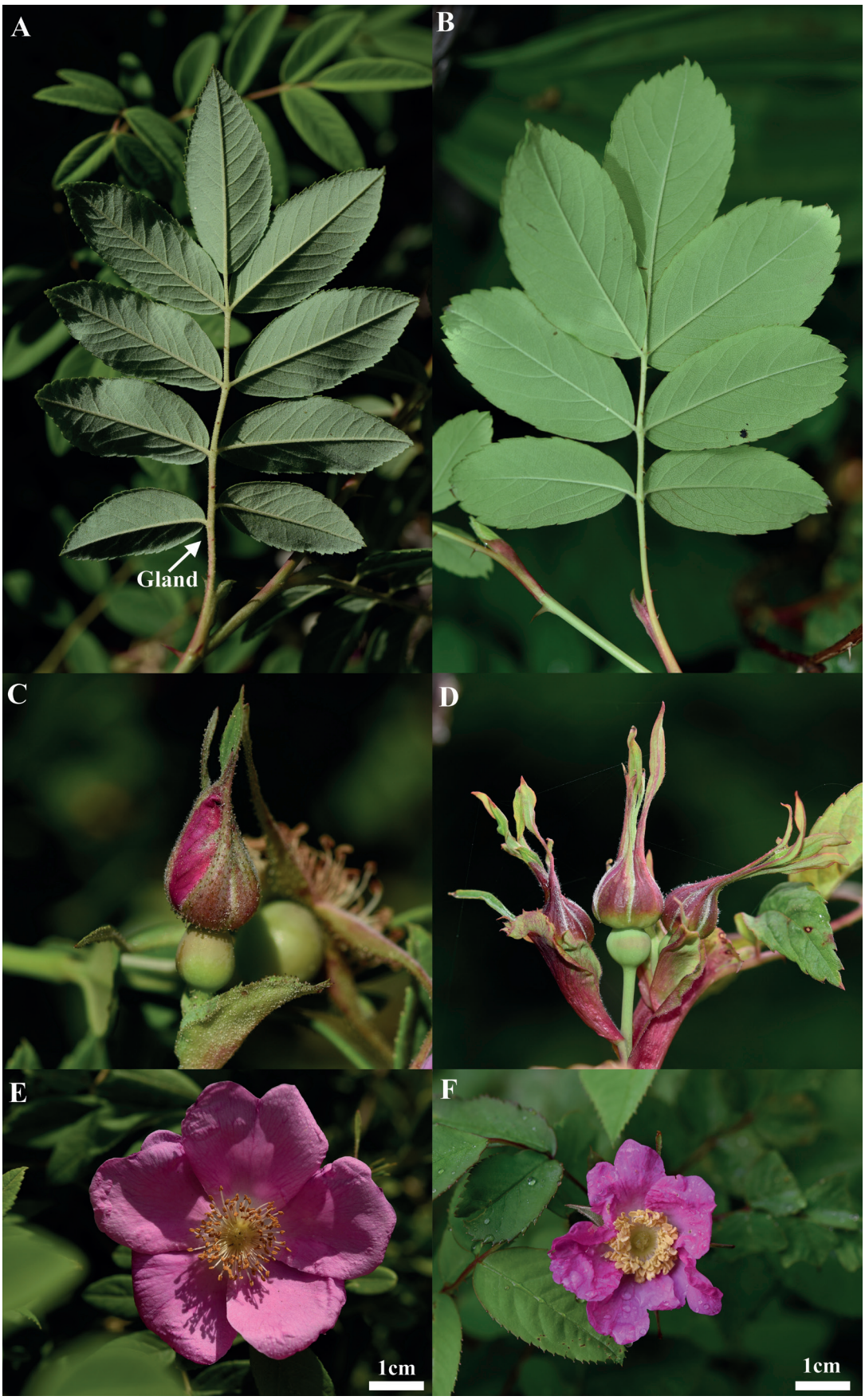


**Figure 1.** Morphological characters distinguishing *R. davurica* (**A, C, E**) and *R. davurica* var. *alpestris* (**B, D, F**) **A, B** leaves **C, D** calyx lobe **E, F** flower. Photo Credits: Dong-Hyuk Lee.

**Table 1.** Morphological differences among *Rosa davurica* and *R. davurica* var. *alpestris*.

| | Characters | *R. davurica* | *R. davurica* var. *alpestris* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Leaflet | Presence of gland on abaxial surface | Glandular | Eglandulose |
| Rachis | Presence of gland on surface | Glandular | Eglandulose |
| Petiole | Presence of gland on surface | Glandular | Eglandulose |
| Calyx lobe | Density of hair on abaxial surface | Densely glandular | Sparsely glandular or eglandulose |
| Flower | Diameter (cm) | 4~5 | 2~3 |

is not taxonomically worthy of being recognized as a variety. Therefore, it is reasonable to regard *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *alpestris* as a synonym of *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *rubro-stipullata*. In practice, *R. rubro-stipullata* var. *rubro-stipullata* has been treated as a synonym of *R. davurica* var. *alpestris* in the literature (Kitagawa 1979; Ohba 2001; Chang et al. 2014; Korea National Arboretum 2020; POWO 2023; WFO 2023).

According to the rules of the ICN (Turland et al. 2018), "*An autonym is treated as having priority over the name*(*s*) *of the same date and rank that upon their valid publication established the autonym*," and a new combination is required to replace *R. davurica* var. *alpestris* because of the priority of the autonym (see ICN Article 11.6 Ex. 28). Meanwhile, the epithet "*rubro-stipullata*" is derived from the Latin word "*stipula*" rather than "*stipulla*", hence it should be corrected to "*rubro-stipulata*" (see ICN Article 60.1). Therefore, for this variety, we propose a new combination, *Rosa davurica* var. *rubro-stipulata* (Nakai) D. C. Son & Y. S. Kim.

## Taxonomic treatment

***Rosa davurica* var. *rubro-stipulata* (Nakai) D. C. Son & Y. S. Kim, comb. nov. & stat. nov.**

urn:lsid:ipni.org:names:77322794-1

*Rosa rubro-stipulata* Nakai, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 30: 242 (1916). Basionym. **Type.** Korea. Chagang-do: 牙得嶺 (江界側) [Adeuk-ryeong (Ganggye)], July 5, 1914, T. Nakai 1824 (lectotype, designated by Momiyama and Ohba (1988: 10): TI00022345, photo!); KOREA Hamgyongnam-do: 牙得嶺 (長津側) [Adeuk-ryeong (Chang-jyu)], July 6, 1914, T. Nakai 1820 (syntype: TI00022346, photo!). Fig. 2.

= *Rosa rubro-stipulata* var. *alpestris* Nakai, Bot. Mag. (Tokyo) 30: 242 (1916); *Rosa marretii* var. *alpestris* (Nakai) Uyeki, Woody Pl. Distr. Chosen: 51 (1940); *Rosa davurica* var. *alpestris* (Nakai) Kitag., Neolin. Fl. Manshur. 382 (1979). **Type.** Korea. Hamgyeongbuk-do: 長白山 (Baekdusan), August 1913, *T. Mori 77* (lectotype, designated by Momiyama and Ohba (1988: 11): TI00022341, photo!); KOREA. Hamgyeongbuk-do: 長白山 (Baekdusan), August 1913, *T. Mori 114* (syntype: TI00022342, photo!); KOREA. Ryanggang-do: 崔哥嶺 (Choiga-ryeong), August 1913, *T. Mori 206* (syntype: TI00022343, photo!); KOREA. Ryanggang-do: 神武城 – 無頭峯 (Shinmusung – Mudubong), August 8, 1914, *T. Nakai 1816* (syntype: TI00022344, photo!). Fig. 3.


**Figure 2.** Type specimens of *Rosa rubro-stipulata* var. *rubro-stipulata* **A** lectotype (TI00022345) **B** syntype (TI00022346).


**Figure 3.** Type specimens of *Rosa rubro-stipulata* var. *alpestris* **A** lectotype (TI00022341) **B–D** syntype (TI00022342, TI00022343, TI00022344).

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## Additional information

### Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

### Ethical statement

No ethical statement was reported.

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### Author contributions

All authors contributed to this work.

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### Data availability

All of the data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text.

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