

**MULGEDIUM OBLONGIFOLIUM (ASTERACEAE), A NEW
COMBINATION**

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ABSTRACT

Mulgedium oblongifolium (Nutt.) Reveal is the correct name for *M. pulchellum* (Pursh) G. Don because *Lactuca oblongifolia* Nutt. (ante Aug 1813) predates *Sonchus pulchellus* Pursh (Dec 1813) as pointed out by Reveal in 1968.

KEY WORDS: *Lactuca*, *Mulgedium*, *Asteraceae*, Flora of North America

In *Flora of North America North of Mexico*, Strother (2006) stated that if the diagnostic phrases used by Nuttall in Fraser Brothers's 1813 catalog (reprinted by Greene 1890) were adequate, then *Mulgedium pulchellum* (Pursh) G. Don (in R. Sweet, Hort. Brit., ed. 3: 418. 1839) would be a later name. Inasmuch as, in 1813, no perennial blue flowered species of *Lactuca* were known from the New World, the use of these two diagnostic features constitutes a valid diagnosis (Reveal 1968). Nuttall is now considered to be the author of the names in the catalog (Art. 46, Ex. 3; McNeill et al. 2006, contrary to Shinnars 1956) and the names are valid (Cronquist et al. 1956; Reveal 1968, contrary to Shinnars 1955). The concept of a "nomen subnudum" that once prevailed informally in the systematic community was never permitted by the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* and is not allowed in the present *Code* (McNeill et al. 2006), and while *Lactuca oblongifolia* Nutt. was rejected by Cronquist et al. (1956) for this reason, their rationale has no basis as the name does have a validating description. Furthermore, Nuttall's names in the Catalogue were accepted by the author as there was no statement by Nuttall that he was not accepting the names (Art. 34.1(a); Reveal 1968). Because

Sonchus pulchellus Pursh (Fl. Amer. Sept. 2: 502. Dec 1813) is a later synonym (but based on the same Nuttall collection gathered along the Missouri River in 1811 and used by Nuttall to establish *L. oblongifolia*) the following combination is proposed:

Mulgedium oblongifolium (Nutt.) Reveal, **comb. nov.** Based on *Lactuca oblongifolia* Nutt., Cat. Pl. Upper Louisiana: unpagged [no. 47]. ante Aug 1813.

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