

A NEW COMBINATION IN *ELYMUS* (POACEAE: TRITICEAE)

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ABSTRACT

The new combination *Elymus ponticus* (Podp.) N. Snow is proposed for a taxon recently treated in the genus *Thinopyrum*.

KEY WORDS: Poaceae, Triticeae, *Elymus*, systematics, nomenclature

During the recent updating (Snow, in prep.) of a checklist of vascular plant taxa for the Southern Rocky Mountain region (Snow and Brasher 2004) it became evident that a combination for the species recently treated as *Thinopyrum ponticum* (Podp.) Barkworth & D. R. Dewey (Barkworth et al. 2007) was not available in the genus *Elymus*.

Generic classifications in the grass Tribe Triticeae are fraught with difficulties (Kellogg 1989). Some have advocated for (Dewey 1982) or against (Seberg and Peterson) genomic analysis to elucidate generic boundaries, whereas others argue taken a more intermediate view (Kellogg 1989). Widespread hybridization in much of the Tribe also complicates taxonomy at the specific level.

For data basing projects and the production of interactive keys in the Southern Rocky Mountain region we (Snow and Brasher 2004) chose to recognize a broadly defined *Elymus* that excludes (from our region) generic segregates such as *Thinopyrum* A. Löve, *Pseudoregneria* A. Löve, *Leymus* Hochst., *Pascopyrum* A. Löve, and *Elytrigia* Desv. Since a combination is not available at the specific level in *Elymus* for the following taxon it is proposed herein.

Elymus ponticus (Podp.) N. Snow, **comb. nov.** Basionym: *Triticum ponticum* Podp., Verh. Zool.-Bot. Ges. Wien 52: 681. 1902.

This taxon is native to western Asia and southern Europe (Barkworth et al. 2007), where it is most common in maritime sands and gravels and riverine gravels. Its range in North America includes scattered but widespread reports in Canada and the eastern USA (particularly near the eastern Great Lakes region), but most reports are scattered across the drier parts of the western half of the USA.

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