

A NEW COMBINATION IN THE GENUS *LOTUS* L.

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The genus *Podolotus* Royle ex Benth., was described by Bentham in 1835. However in 1865, he transferred it to the genus *Astragalus* (Bentham, 1865). This was maintained by Baker (1876) and more recently by Ali (1977). Rechinger f. (1957) described a new genus *Kerstanina* Rech. f. based on *K. nuristanica* Rech. f. which has been shown to be conspecific with *Astragalus hosackioides* (Royle ex Benth.) Benth. (Ali, 1958). Rechinger f., (1984) has retained *Podolotus* Benth., as a separate genus whereas Polhill (1981) while discussing the genera of the tribe Loteae, has reduced *Podolotus* Royle ex Benth. (*Astragalus* sect. *Podolotus* (Royle) Benth.) to the synonymy of the genus. Following Polhill (1981), *Astragalus hosackioides* (Royle ex Benth.) Benth., is being transferred to the genus *Lotus* L.

Lotus hosackioides (Royle ex Benth.) Ali, Comb. nov.

Podolotus hosackioides Royle ex Benth. in Royle, *Ill. Bot. Himal. Mount.*, 198. 1835.

Astragalus hosackioides (Royle ex Benth.) Benth. in Benth. & Hook.f., *Gen. Pl.*, 1.2: 507. 1865.

Kerstanina nuristanica Rech.f., *Dan. Biol. Skr.*, 9.3: 19. 1957.

Distribution: Southern Iran, East Afghanistan, Pakistan (Swat, Kurram, Murree, Punjab), Kashmir, India (N. Punjab, Kumaon).

References

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