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A NEW COMBINATION IN *PENSTEMON* (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Stephen L. Clark¹

ABSTRACT.— Field and herbarium studies of *Penstemon cyananthus* Hook. ssp. *longiflorus* Pennell suggest that this taxon be elevated to species rank.

Penstemon cyananthus Hook. ssp. *longiflorus* Pennell is a tall, attractive blue-flowered plant presently known only from Beaver, Millard, and Piute counties of southern Utah. It was first collected by Edward Palmer (376, NY) near Beaver City, Utah, and was distributed as *P. glaber cyananthus*, a synonym of *P. cyananthus*.

Pennell recognized that Palmer's collection differed from the species as follows: the calyx lobes are broader than in the species, the flowers longer, the stems and lower leaves are puberulent, and the inflorescence is strongly secund. In addition, the distributions are very different. *Penstemon cyananthus* ssp. *cyananthus* has never been collected from southern Utah, but it is one of the most frequently encountered species of *Penstemon* in the Wasatch mountains of northern Utah, southeastern Idaho, and southwest Wyoming (Fig. 1).

On the basis of these morphological and geographical differences, Pennell (1920) described and named the subspecies *P. cyananthus* ssp. *longiflorus*.

It is the writer's opinion that differences of such magnitude warrant the elevation of this taxon to specific status, hence the following new combination is proposed:

Penstemon longiflorus (Pennell) Clark comb. nov., based on *P. cyananthus* Hook. ssp. *longiflorus* Pennell in Contr. from the U.S. Nat. Herb., vol. 20, part 9, p. 353, 1920.

Penstemon longiflorus can easily be recognized by its puberulent lower stem and leaves, broad sepals, longer corolla, secund inflorescence, and its blue tipped staminode.

Both taxa have a chromosome number of $2n = 16$.

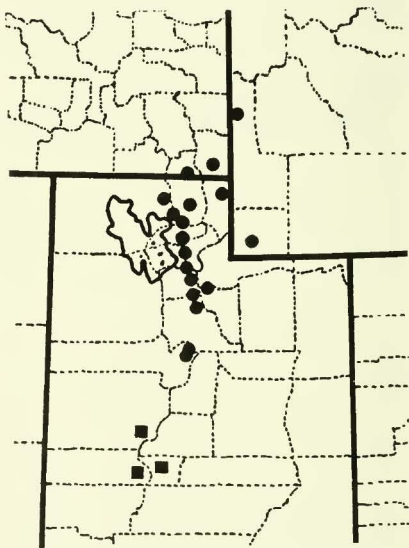


Fig. 1. Distribution of *P. cyananthus* (circles) and *P. longiflorus* (squares).

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