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A NEW STATUS FOR PENSTEMON CYANANTHUS HOOK. Ssp. SUBGLABER PENNELL (SCROPHULARIACEAE)

Stephen L. Clark

ABSTRACT.—Penstemon cyananthus Hook, ssp. subglaber Pennell, a plant found frequently in northwestern Utah, southeastern Idaho, and southeastern Wyoming, is elevated to species status. A new name, Penstemon holmgrenii Clark is proposed because P. subglaber is preoccupied.

Penstemon cyananthus Hook. ssp. subglaber Pennell is a tall, densely puberulent to pubescent, blue-flowered plant found commonly within sage and pinyon-juniper areas of northwestern Utah, southeastern Idaho, and southwestern Wyoming. Pennell described it in 1920 and separated it from P. cyananthus ssp. cyananthus on the basis that the leaves of the subspecies are more lanceolate and more densely puberulent. Investigations by this writer suggest, however, that other differences exist. Penstemon cyananthus ssp. cyananthus is never pubescent. The staminode of P. cyananthus ssp. subglaber is densely covered with long yellow hairs, and the two taxa are not sympatric. These differences suggest to the writer that the subspecies should be elevated to species status.

The following new name is proposed to replace the epithet Penstemon cyananthus Hook. ssp. subglaber Pennell: Penstemon holmgrenii Clark nom. nov., based on P. cyananthus Hook. ssp. subglaber Pennell in Scrophulariaceae of the Rocky Mountain States. Contributions from the United States National Herbarium 20(9):313–381. Not P. subglaber Rydb. Named in honor of Arthur H. Holmgren, a friend who first guided me into studies in Penstemon.