

2020

BC Conservation Status Rank Review and Changes

Vascular Plants

Additions: There were 22 vascular plants added to the BC flora. Twelve of these were Exotic species, including some escaped garden plants such as hollyhock and stinking hellebore which have established apparently persistent populations in favorable habitats. New and noteworthy finds this year include the red-listed Missouri milk-vetch and lance-leaved mare's tail. Also red-listed, Fremont's stickseed and western valerian were re-identified from specimens previously identified as other species.

Removals: Eleven vascular taxa were removed from the BC Flora due to lack of verified specimens or reidentification of herbarium specimens.

Taxonomic/Name Changes: A total of 43 changes in taxonomic classification or nomenclature were made this year. Some of the changes represent recognition of taxa at an infraspecific level following Flora of North America or the revised Flora of the Pacific Northwest, 2nd Edition (2018). A change in genus from *Hieracium* to *Pilosella* for species introduced to BC from Eurasia follows the classification proposed by European experts based on differences in cypsela features and in apomixis (asexual seed formation) (Bräutigam & Greuter 2007, Fehrer et al, 2007). According to a recent treatment by Schneider & Colwell (2017), the parasitic broomrapes native to the New World are now recognized in genus *Aphyllon*, and *Orobanche* s.s. is limited to Old World species. Formerly known as *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, yellow-cedar was reclassified as *Xanthocyparis nootkatensis* and is now *Callitropsis nootkatensis*, based on taxonomic precedent under the International Code of Botanical Nomenclature.

Status Rank Changes: A total of 127 provincial conservation status rank changes were made this year. Many taxa were down listed because of new information indicating that populations are more abundant or widespread than previously known, and 35 taxa were re-assessed as 'SU' due to a lack of specimens, uncertainty regarding their origins in BC or taxonomic uncertainty around the identity of specimens assigned to the taxon.

Nonvascular Plants, Lichens and Macrofungi

Additions: 48 macrolichens were added to the BC flora. In addition, 1283 **microlichens**, which are another grouping of lichens that grow as crusts or less conspicuous forms on different substrates, were added to the BC CDC list for the first time; as microlichens are more cryptic to sample and identify than macrolichens (leafy or bush-like lichens) many were ranked "SU". 3178 **macrofungi** were also added to the BC CDC lists; ranking is in progress for these.

Removals: Eleven macrolichens and three bryophytes were removed from the non-vascular flora, primarily due to re-identification of specimens or taxonomic revision.

Taxonomic/Name Changes: 21 taxonomic changes were made this year and most involved lichens. Taxonomic revision resulted in changes to genus names for several BC species, including the segregation of genus *Montanelia* from *Melanelia*.

Status Rank Changes: Provincial conservation status rank changes were minimal for nonvascular plants/lichens this year, with only three amended ranks.

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