

original description of *Eriophorum Chamissonis* both in the Flora Altaica and in Meyer's later and more elaborate treatment give the following characters.

a. Root-stock repent, the culms solitary : "radix repens hinc inde protrudit culmos solitarios"—Fl. Alt.; "radix valde repens et hinc inde culmos solitarios emittens"—Cyp. Nov.

b. Spike oblong.

c. Anthers linear, about a line long.

d. Bristles of the Unalaska plant—the plant of Chamisso—reddish, of the very different Altai plant white : "lana longissima, alba (in specimine unalaschcensi rufa)"—Fl. Alt.; "lana copiosa, laevissima, in specimine fructifero pollicem superans, rufa (an semper ?)"—Cyp. Nov.

6. There are only two repent plants with solitary culms concerned in the question of the identity of *Eriophorum Chamissonis*. One is *E. Scheuchzeri* (*E. capitatum*) with which your correspondent, following a statement of Fries rather than the original description and the clear plate of Meyer, would associate it. The other is *E. russeolum*, Fries, which, before he had seen the Altai element of *E. Chamissonis*, Fries himself recognized as unquestionably the plant meant by Meyer, saying in a discussion of *E. Chamissonis* with "spica oblonga" and "antheris linearibus" from Lapland : "Reliquis nominibus nondum divulgatis *E. russeolum* diximus, quod vero nomen lubenter alio publicato suppressimus, ne inutilis synonymia augeatur."¹

7. All botanists who know the two plants are perfectly definite in their statements that *Eriophorum Scheuchzeri* (*E. capitatum*) has the flowering spike broadly obovoid, in fruit becoming subglobose; the anthers cordate-elliptic, 1 mm. ($\frac{1}{2}$ line) long; and the bristles bright white. They are equally definite in describing in the words of Fries himself *E. russeolum* with "spica oblonga", "antheris linearibus", and "lana fulvo-rubella."²

8. Now, if we compare the leading characters of *Eriophorum Scheuchzeri* (*E. capitatum*) with those of *E. Chamissonis* as originally described, we shall find that it disagrees in having the flower-

¹ Fries, Nov. Mant. ii. 2 (1839).

² Fries, l. c. ii. 1 (1839), iii. 170 (1842).