

To most botanists of this generation the name *T. Cornuti* is unfamiliar. They meet with it nowhere in the newer books but in synonymy; and in the older herbaria they are apt to find it erased, and the name *T. polygamum* written in its stead. It had been in constant use among American botanists for more than a century when, late in the nineteenth century it was remanded to synonymy by Asa Gray. The condition of meadow-rue nomenclature was not thereby improved, for *T. polygamum* had been from the first a *nomen nudum*, that is, it had been printed in a catalogue, without any accompanying description. All that Dr. Gray was able to cite by way of diagnosis was "smooth, polygamous;" so that any kind of *Thalictrum* showing glabrous herbage and a tendency to polygamy would have to be *T. polygamum*. Yet despite all this, the author at once began to include in his own *T. polygamum* plants glabrous and plants pubescent, and that in several different ways. They who use the name *T. polygamum* use it on the mere dictum of authority. There is less reason for it than for the old name *T. Cornuti*. Yet even Mühlenberg, the inventor of the vacuous name *T. polygamum*, had admitted *T. Cornuti*, holding *T. polygamum*, whatever that may have been, to be distinct from it; thus by no means intending to make a name that should be substituted in place of *T. Cornuti*.

The discovery of the invalidity of the name *T. Cornuti* was not made by Dr. Gray. That point had been made clear by Augustin Pyramus De Candolle away back in 1818, long enough before the time of Gray; and De Candolle, suppressing the unauthenticated *T. Cornuti*, gave a new name, and therewith a description that is intelligible. I do not think I can do students of Canadian *Thalictrums* a better service here than to give them an English version of De Candolle's description; for the author says that his specimen was from Canada.

"*THALICTRUM CORYNELLUM*. Stem erect, terete, finely striate, hollow; leaves twice or thrice ternately divided, the segments oval, at apex obtusely 3-lobed, otherwise entire, upper face dark green, the lower glaucous, and beset with scattered hairs, especially on the veins and veinlets; panicle erect, sub-corymbose; flowers dioecious erect; sepals oval; filaments clavate at summit; anthers oval-oblong; fruits 12 to 15, sessile, striate, oblong." [A. D.C. *Systema*, I. 172, 173]

M. De Candolle drew up the description from herbarium specimens. He does not seem to have known that the filaments are white. They seldom remain so in old specimens. The specimens were in the herbarium of Vaillant, and the plant was from Quebec, by Sarracenus. It is to be noted that he supposed the species to be dioecious; and so it is, in the main. Rarely