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## A RECLASSIFICATION OF THE SIBERIAN IRISES

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Horticulturists and cytologists have long recognized that the species of *Iris* collectively known as the 'Siberian irises' are composed of two separate and distinct groups of plants which differ morphologically, cytologically, and geographically. In the most recent reclassification of the genus (Lawrence, 1953) the two groups are placed in series *Sibiricae*, subsection *Apogon*. In order to afford these two groups proper botanical recognition I hereby propose to recognize them as two subseries under series *Sibiricae*.

In his 1932 paper, Simonet followed Dykes (1913) and used the term "Groupe *Sibirica*." At the same time Simonet (1932: 380) recognized that there were two cytologically distinct groups, "Les *Iris Sibirica* se divisent en deux caryologiques: l'un à  $n = 14$ , l'autre, le plus important, à  $n = 20$  comprend toutes les espèces du Yunnan: d'après R. Dykes (1923) . . ."

By 1934, Simonet had adopted the classification proposed by Diels (1930) and under section *Apogon* had:

Sous-section *Sibiricae* Engler [correctly, Diels].

$n = 14$ . *I. sibirica* L., *I. orientalis* Thunb.  
(N. Kazao, 1928; M. Simonet, 1928).

$2n = 40$ . *I. delavayi* Mich., *I. wilsoni* Wright,  
*I. forrestii* Dykes, *I. chrysographes* Dykes ( $n = 20$ ),  
*I. bulleyana* Dykes.

In an appendix to the 1934 paper, Simonet creates a new subsection for the 40-chromosome group:

Sous-section *Chrysographes* M. Simonet

	$n$	$2n$
<i>I. delavayi</i> Mich.	20	
<i>I. bulleyana</i> Dykes	20	
<i>I. clarkei</i> Baker		40

According to Article 36, *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (Stafleu, 1972), "In order to be validly published, a name of a new taxon of plants, . . . published on or after 1 Jan. 1935 must be accompanied by a Latin description or diagnosis . . ." The name *Chrysographes*, at the subsectional level and published in 1934, must, therefore, be considered as validly published.

According to Article 22 of the *Code*, "When the epithet of a subdivision of a genus is identical with or derived from the epithet of one of its constituent

species, this species is the type of the name of the subdivision of the genus unless the original author of that name designated another type." Therefore, *I. chrysographes* Dykes is the type species of subsection *Chrysographes*.

Although he does not specifically say so, Simonet in 1951 was undoubtedly using the names *Sibiricae*, *Chrysographes*, and *Californicae* in the same sense that he had used them in 1934, i.e., as subsections of section *Apogon*. I believe that his inclusion of *I. douglasiana* Herb. and *I. tenax* Dougl. in subsection *Chrysographes* was a manuscript error since he specifically names the *Californicae* in the title and nowhere in the publication does he list any member of the *Californicae* except *I. douglasiana* and *I. tenax*.

Lawrence (1953) and Lawrence and Randolph (1959) were obviously unaware of Simonet's papers of 1934 and 1951 when they placed all the 'Siberian irises' in series *Sibiricae*, subsection *Apogon*.

Werckmeister (1967: 106) in listing "Apogon, *Sibiricae*" and "Apogon, *Chrysographes*," failed to follow Article 21 of the Code which states that "The name of a subdivision of a genus is a combination of a generic name and a subdivisional epithet connected by a term (subgenus, section, series, etc.) denoting its rank." By quoting Simonet's 1951 paper it must be assumed that Werckmeister was accepting Simonet's disposition of the groups, i.e., *Sibiricae* and *Chrysographes* as subsections of section *Apogon*.

#### KEY TO THE SUBSERIES OF IRIS SERIES *SIBIRICAE*

1. Spathe valves more than 5 cm long; flanges at the base of the sepals large; tops of capsules spiked; capsules thin walled;  $n = 20$  (where known) ..... subseries *Chrysographes*
2. Spathe valves short; flanges at base of sepals small; tops of capsules blunt; capsules thick walled;  $n = 14$  ..... subseries *Sibiricae*

#### 1. IRIS subseries **Chrysographes** (Simonet) Lenz, stat. nov.

*Iris* subsect. *Chrysographes* Simonet, Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., Sér. 10, 16: 371, 1934. (basionym)

*Iris* sect. *Limniris* Tausch, pro parte, Hort. Canalius, I, 1823; and Tausch, in Schultes, Additamentum Mantissum, II, p. 369, 1824.

*Iris* subgen. *Limniris* (Tausch) Spach, pro parte, Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., Sér. 3, 5: 99, 1846; and Hist. Nat. Veg., XIII, p. 36-37, 1846.

*Iris* subsect. *Sibiricae* Diels, pro parte, Engler und Prantl, Die natürl. Pflanzenfam., Aufl. 2, 15a: 501, 1930.

*Iris* series *Sibiricae* (Diels) Lawr., pro parte, Gentes Herb. 8: 359, 1953.

*Type species: Iris chrysographes* Dykes.

*Iris chrysographes* Dykes, Gard. Chron., 3rd ser., 49: 362, 1911.

*I. bulleyana* Dykes, Gard. Chron., 3rd ser., 47: 418, 1910.

*I. clarkei* Baker, Handbook Irideae, p. 25, 1892.

*I. delavayi* Mich., Rev. Hort. 67: 398-399, 1895.

*I. dykesii* O. Stapf, Bot. Mag. 160: t. 9282, 1932.

*I. forrestii* Dykes, Gard. Chron., 3rd ser., 47: 418, 1910.

- I. phragmitetorum* Handel-Mazzetti, Anz. Akad. Wiss., Vienna 62: 241, 1925.
- I. wilsonii* C. H. Wright, Kew Bull., 1907: 321, 1907.
2. IRIS subseries *Sibiricae* (Diels) Lenz, stat. nov.
- Iris* subsect. *Sibiricae* Diels, pro parte, Engler und Prantl, Die natürl. Pflanzenfam., Aufl. 2, 15a: 501, 1930. (basionym)
- Iris* sect. *Limniris* Tausch, pro parte, Hort. Canalius, I, 1823; and Tausch, in Schultes, Additamentum Mantissum, II, p. 369, 1824.
- Iris* subgen. *Limniris* (Tausch) Spach, pro parte, Ann. Sci. Nat. Bot., Sér. 3, 5: 99, 1846; and Hist. Nat. Veg., XIII, p. 36-37, 1846.
- Iris* series *Sibiricae* (Diels) Lawrence, pro parte, Gentes Herb. 8: 359, 1953.
- Type species: Iris sibirica* L.
- Iris sibirica* L., Sp. Plant., ed. 1, p. 39, 1753.
- I. sanguinea* Donn, Hort. Cant., ed. 5, I, p. 17, 1811.

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