



Galium verum var. *hallaensis*, a replacement name for the Korean *Galium pusillum* Nakai (Rubiaceae)

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Galium Linnaeus (1753: 105) is one of the largest genera within the family Rubiaceae and consists of approximately 650 species (Soza & Olmstead 2010), mostly annual and perennial herbaceous plants, mainly distributed in temperate regions. The genus is characterized by more than two leaf-like whorls, number of divided petal, rudimentary calyx and two locular ovaries (Ehrendorfer *et al.* 1994, 2014). *Galium* has serious problems for identification and taxon delimitation due to severe variations in the morphology of leaves, seed hairs and flowers. It is difficult to be correctly identified because the plants present a seasonal change in the morphology of vegetative parts (Soza & Olmstead, 2010).

The name *Galium pusillum* Nakai (1915: 4) was proposed for a species endemic to the Jeju Island, Korea. However, the name *G. pusillum* had been previously used by Linnaeus (1753: 106) for a different European species. According to Art. 53.1 of the ICN (McNeill *et al.* 2012), the name *G. pusillum* Nakai is a later homonym of *G. pusillum* L. and is therefore illegitimate. A replacement name, *Galium verum* Linnaeus (1753: 107) var. *hallaensis* K.S.Jeong & K.Choi, named after the type locality “Mt. Halla of Jeju Island” is proposed here.

Galium verum L. var. *hallaensis* K.S.Jeong & K.Choi, **nom. nov.**

Replaced name: *Galium pusillum* Nakai (1915: 4), *nom. illeg.*, non *G. pusillum* Linnaeus (1753: 106).

Type—KOREA. Jeju: Seogwipo-si, Mt. Halla, 13 August 1908, *E.J. Taquet 921* (holotype TI!)

Notes—*Galium verum* is a very variable species and several varieties on the basis of habit, indumentum, and flower color have been recognized (Cufodontis 1940, Yamazaki 1991, Chen & Ehrendorfer 2011).

Galium verum var. *hallaensis* is endemic to Mt. Halla (Jeju Island, Korea), and it is similar to *G. verum* var. *asiaticum* Nakai (1939: 344) distributed in Japan, Korea and Russia (Yamazaki 1991, Chen & Ehrendorfer 2011). It differs from *G. verum* var. *asiaticum* by smaller plant and leaves.

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