

**LOBELIA CARDINALIS f. ALBA (McNAB) St JOHN
—A CORRECTION**

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ABSTRACT. *Lobelia cardinalis* L. f. *alba* (McNab) St John is a valid name, based on James McNab's varietal epithet; a bibliographic error in citation is corrected.

Nelson & Dore (1987) discussed the typification of James McNab's names for North American taxa and suggested that the white-flowered variant of *Lobelia cardinalis* L. did not have a valid epithet at the rank of form, although McNab's publication of *L. cardinalis* var. *alba* was valid. This conclusion arose from consideration of a paper by St John (1919) in which he made the combination *L. cardinalis* f. *alba* citing Amos Eaton's *Manual of botany for North America* . . . (1836) as the source of the basionym.

Pringle (1988) has pointed out that while Eaton (1836) never printed the authorities of epithets which he used at sub-specific levels, he was aware of McNab's publication (1835) of the varietal epithet (and of other names, e.g. *Patrinia longifolia* McNab). Eaton, therefore, did not publish a superfluous homonym based on a new collection, he was simply using an available name. This is confirmed by Eaton's citing of Goderich in Upper Canada as the locality of collection of the white form of *Lobelia cardinalis*; James McNab is the only collector known to have visited that region before 1836 (Pringle, 1988), and there is no specimen of this taxon collected by Eaton in Yale University herbarium (Hill, pers.comm.).

Therefore St John's combination at form level is valid, being based on McNab's varietal name which Eaton used without giving an authority; St John's attribution of the authorship of the basionym to Amos Eaton may be regarded as a bibliographic error and under ICBN Art. 33, the authority only needs to be amended. The white-flowered form of *L. cardinalis* is correctly:

***Lobelia cardinalis* L. f. *alba* (McNab) St John in Rhodora 21:218 (1919).**

Basionym: *L. cardinalis* var. *alba* McNab in Edinburgh New Phil. J. 19:61 (1835).

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