Short Notes

Nomenclatural Changes in Fossil Species of Cryptantha

RONALD SEGAL

Plant fossils recovered from the Neogene Ogallala formation of the High Plains have so far indicated the presence of the elm, grass, and borage families. Elias has described and reviewed the bulk of these species (1932; 1942). An interesting facet of the fossil remains is that large quantities of silicified fruits—a fact which greatly facilitates their identification—rather than vegetative organs, form the dominant element of the flora. Almost all outcrops of the formation have been found to yield and abundant assemblage of fruits, a phenomenon that geologists have been quick to make use of when undertaking stratigraphic studies (Frye, Leonard, and Swineford, 1956).

When beginning a general investigation of the plant fruits in Western Kansas, the author noted that three fossil species of the family Boraginaceae were assigned to the invalid genus *Krynitzkia* Fischer and Meyer by Elias in 1932, an error that has been followed by subsequent workers. Since the genus *Cryptantha* has priority over *Krynitzkia,* the following nomenclatural changes are necessary:

Cryptantha auriculata (Elias) Segal comb. nov.
Krynitzkia auriculata Elias, Kans. Univ. Sci. Bull., 20:358; pl. 30, figs. 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d (1932).
Cryptantha chaneyi (Elias) Segal comb. nov.
Krynitzkia (*Oreocarya*) *chaneyi* Elias, Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull., 20: 357–8; pl. 30., figs. 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d (1932).
Cryptantha coroniformis (Elias) Segal comb. nov.
Krynitzkia (*Cryptantha*) *coroniformis* Elias, Kans. Univ. Sci. Bull., 20: 356–7; pl. 30, figs. 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d (1932).

A clear explanation of the nomenclatural stauts of the genus *Cryptantha* and the basis for the rejection of the name *Krynitzkia,* as applied to extant plants has previously been published by Johnston (1925).

Literature Cited

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—*Department of Botany, University of Kansas*

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