

Glossary of terms used in OregonFlora Checklist page downloadable files

Accepted: In our checklist, the scientific name chosen to represent a type of plant (also referred to as a taxon or taxonomic concept) that is known to naturally occur in Oregon. This is the accepted name (also referred to as the recognized name).

Accepted (terminal): The narrowest taxonomic category recognized by OregonFlora; applied here as an Oregon species that is not further divided into subspecies or varieties.

Accepted (not terminal): A species that does contain Oregon subspecies or varieties.

Exotic: A plant taxon from distant parts of North America or from other continents that established in Oregon post-European settlement. Examples include weeds, naturalized escapes, waifs, and ballast plants.

In part: A scientific name whose circumscription previously encompassed a range of morphological variation that OregonFlora interprets as belonging to two or more taxa. An example is the tiny aquatic plant, *Marsilea vestita*. Several older local floras had considered *Marsilea oligospora* as a synonym of *M. vestita*, but OregonFlora recognizes *M. oligospora* as a distinct species. Therefore, we circumscribe *M. vestita* more narrowly than the older floras by removing the range of morphological variability defined by *M. oligospora*. We reconcile this difference by saying the name *M. vestita* has potential ‘in part’ to represent the circumscription of *M. oligospora*, and that it is also a good species in the narrower sense. ‘In part’ brings the ambiguous nature of the usage of this name to our readers’ attention.

ICBN rejected name: A scientific name ruled as unusable per the [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature](#). A different scientific name must therefore be assigned to represent the taxon.

Illegitimate name: A scientific name that although validly published, is not in accordance with the rules of the [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature](#). A later homonym is an example of an illegitimate name.

Invalidly published: Not published by the rules of the [International Code of Botanical Nomenclature](#); this renders the scientific name unusable.

Later homonym: A scientific name that was (accidentally) published twice to represent two different taxa. Once this error is discovered, the later publication using that name must have a new name applied. A scientific name cannot represent two different taxa.

Native: A plant taxon that has established in the landscape independently from direct or indirect human intervention. Native species include those found in Oregon that are new to science and recently described, are disjunct in Oregon if considered native in a nearby state, and/or, to the best of our knowledge, are considered an element of Oregon plant life prior to European settlement.

Naturalized: A well-established exotic taxon that has persisted in the wild for at least 3-5 years and has spread beyond the area of its original introduction.

Misapplied: A misapplied scientific name is one that has been accepted in a published flora, but is later discovered to represent a different taxon altogether. This is often due to a mistaken identification (leading to publication of the error in the published flora), or, by the time of the flora's publication, the taxon had not yet been discovered and named, and therefore the author used the name for a taxon which most closely resembled the later discovered taxon.

Orthographic variant: An alternative spelling for a scientific name.

Ploidal variant: A taxon with multiple of sets of chromosomes.

Published flora: A comprehensive plant identification guide for a given region. It is based on current taxonomic research and typically uses confirmed vouchers (carefully identified herbarium specimens) to provide evidence of the taxa described within it as occurring in the region covered. Our published flora is *Flora of Oregon*. Many floras exist for other regions of the world.

Sensu lato (s.l.): Latin for “in the broader interpretation”. In taxonomy, this represents the broader interpretation of a taxon in cases where its circumscription has been applied to represent either a tighter or a looser range of morphological variance. See example under definition for *sensu stricto*.

Sensu stricto (s.s.): Latin for “in the narrow interpretation”. In taxonomy, this Latin term refers to a narrow range of morphological variability that has been chosen to delimit a taxon. Example: until recently, the family named Liliaceae was commonly applied in the broad sense (*sensu lato*) to contain a large array of genera (plural for genus) that, due to new molecular evidence, have since been split into 7 different Oregon families: Amaryllidaceae, Asparagaceae, Melanthiaceae, Nartheciaceae, Smilacaceae, Tecophilaeaceae, Tofieldiaceae. Some of the former Liliaceae genera are still included in the newer, more narrow usage of Liliaceae (*sensu stricto*). Contrast to *sensu lato*.

Synonym: An alternative scientific name for a taxon, which has been recognized in the past by other published floras. Our synonyms are primarily based on the accepted names in other local published floras that we have 'synonymized' in our taxonomy.

Taxon: A distinct kind of organism. Just one scientific name is used to represent each taxon, which is the accepted (or recognized) name. A taxon may also be represented by alternative scientific names called synonyms. Plural: *taxa*.

Under evaluation: A scientific name that has not yet been reviewed by OregonFlora to determine its taxonomic placement and/or whether the taxon is naturally occurring in our state.