

THE IDENTITY OF *PYRROCOMA CUSPIDATA* (ASTERACEAE: ASTEREAE)

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ABSTRACT

The type collection of *Pyrrocoma cuspidata* Greene, from Sycan Marsh in Lake Co., Oregon, includes 12 individuals of distinctive aspect. The name has been regarded as a synonym of *P. lanceolata*, but the *P. cuspidata* expression has not been seen elsewhere in its geographic range, and further taxonomic study is justified. Representative sheets from the type collection are illustrated.

Pyrrocoma cuspidata Greene (from Sycan Marsh in Lake Co., Oregon) has been regarded as conspecific with *P. lanceolata* (e.g., Hall 1928; Ferris 1960; Mayes 1976), but the plants of the type collection are distinctive and consistent in aspect. Cusick's gathering includes about 12 individuals — each is low in stature with decumbent-ascending stems and a cluster of relatively small basal leaves, the cauline abruptly diminished in size, and few heads. Collections at Sycan Marsh by John Christy in 1980 and Kristi Van Wert 1996 (at OSC) included one plant with the aspect of *P. cuspidata* (Van Wert s.n., Fig. 10), but others are more characteristic of *P. lanceolata* (e.g., Christy 2690, Figs. 11, 12) in its more widely occurring expression. Plants of the *P. cuspidata* expression have not been encountered elsewhere in Lake County (e.g., Figs. 13-15) or in the range of *P. lanceolata* (Nesom 2025).

In a taxonomic overview of *Pyrrocoma lanceolata* (Nesom 2025), and in view of its variability, *P. cuspidata* is included in its synonymy. It seems useful, however, to point out the distinction of the Sycan Marsh plants — further study at Sycan Marsh is warranted to see whether one or two species occurs there.

Pyrrocoma cuspidata Greene, Leaflet Bot. Observ. Crit. 2: 17. 1909. **Type: Oregon.** [Lake Co.]: Sycan [Sycan] Marsh, marsh margin, 10 Aug 1901, W.C. Cusick 2741 (holotype: US; isotypes: GH, MO, NDG, NY, OSC, RM, WS). Figures 1-9.

LITERATURE CITED

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- Mayes, R.A. 1976. A cytotaxonomic and chemosystematic study of the genus *Pyrrocoma* (Asteraceae: Astereae). Ph.D. dissertation, Univ. of Texas, Austin.
- Nesom, G.L. 2025. Taxonomy of *Pyrrocoma lanceolata* (Asteraceae: Astereae). Phytoneuron 2025-31: 1–32.



Figure 1. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (GH 11572). Isotype.



Figure 2. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741, detail from GH isotype, Fig. 1.



Figure 3. *Pyrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (GH 11574). Isotype.

Figure 4. *Pyrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (NY). Isotype.

Figure 5. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (RM). Isotype.



Figure 6. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. *Cusick 2741*, detail from RM isotype, Fig. 5.



Figure 7. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (US). Holotype.



Figure 8. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741, detail from US holotype, Fig. 7.



Figure 9. *Pyrrocoma cuspidata*. Cusick 2741 (WS). Isotype. More strongly developed lower cauline leaves and greater number of heads perhaps approaching characteristic *P. lanceolata*.



Figure 10. *Pyrrocoma* aff. *cuspidata*. Lake Co., Sycan Marsh, 1996, Van Wert s.n. (OSC).



Figure 11. *Pyrrocoma lanceolata*. Lake Co., Sycan Marsh, 1980, Christy 2690 (OSC 075645).



Figure 12. *Pyrrocoma lanceolata*. Lake Co., Sycan Marsh, 1980, Christy 2690 (OSC 075613).



Figure 13. *Pyrrocoma lanceolata*. Lake Co., Paulina Marsh, 1980, Ertter 3867 (CIC).



Figure 14. *Pyrrocoma lanceolata*. Lake Co., Paulina Marsh, 2013, Johnson 2514 (RENO).



Figure 15. *Pyrrocoma lanceolata*. Lake Co., Silver Lake, 1919, Lawrence 2489 (OSC).