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Hectorellaceae: A New Family of Dicotyledons

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Abstract

A new family is proposed to include *Hectorella* and *Lyallia*.

IN the preceding paper one of us (J.P.S.) has shown that *Hectorella* displays no affinity to either the Caryophyllaceae or the Portulacaceae, to which families it has been attributed by various authors. The genus *Lyallia* shows undoubted relationship with *Hectorella*, but the characters of these two genera cannot be fitted into any existing family known to us. It is, therefore, necessary to propose a new family for them.

Hectorellaceae fam. nov.

Herbae perennes dense caespitosae. *Folia* parva, alterna, dense imbricata, coriacea, integerrima, exstipulata. *Flores* solitarii, laterales, bracteolis deficientibus vel 2-3. *Sepala* 2, anterio-posteriora. *Petala* 4-5, libera vel basim connata. *Stamina* 3-5 (rarius 6), cum petalis alternata, corollae tubae coalita dum adsit, antherae 2-loculares, versatiles. *Ovarium* superius, syncarpum, uniloculare; ovula pauca, columellae centrali prope fundum ovarii affixa. *Stylus* bifidus. *Fructus* capsularis, semina 1-5; testa dura, levis; embryo curvatus albumen includens.

The family comprises the two following monotypic genera:—

Hectorella Hook. f. Handbook of N.Z. Flora, Pt. I, 1864. *H. caespitosa* Hook. f. l.c. alpine regions of the South Island, New Zealand.

Lyallia Hook. f. Fl. Antarctica, Pt. II, 1847. *L. kerguelensis* Hook. f. l.c. endemic to Kerguelen Island.

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