
*Lomelosia caucasica* (M. Bieb.) Greuter & Burdet (synonym *Scabiosa caucasica* Bieb., Caucasian pincushion flower) is a perennial ornamental plant native to Turkey and the Caucasus region. Traditionally classified in the Dipsacaceae, *Lomelosia* and *Scabiosa* are distinct clades in the Scabioseae s. str., separate from Dipsaceae, Knautieae, and other tribes (2). On 22 September 2011, the author collected a specimen at Manito Park Perennial Garden, Spokane, WA. The specimen displayed faintly diffuse powdery mildew infection, primarily on adaxial leaf surfaces, with colonies approximately 5-10 mm in diameter or confluent. Because *Scabiosa* is amongst the genera in the USDA-ARS National Plant Germplasm System collection at Pullman, the specimen was examined.

The garden label designated the plant as *Scabiosa caucasica*, pincushion flower, variety ‘House Hybrid.’ The plant keyed to *S. caucasica* in a comprehensive key that included species later assigned to *Lomelosia* (4). The powdery mildew had conidiophores ranging ca. 88-140(-175) μm long, with foot cells ca. 33-70(-104) × 7-10 μm and with typically 1-2 cells above the foot cell (Fig. 1). Conidia were elliptical to elongate ovoid to sub-cylindrical, usually 33-46 × 15.5-19.5 μm, lacking fibrosin bodies, and borne individually or in false chains (Fig. 2). Appressoria were lobed (Fig. 3). The teleomorph was not observed. The specimen is deposited as WSP 72104.
The powdery mildew keyed to _Erysiphe knautiae_ Druby (1). The other powdery mildews on _Scabiosa_ (incl. _Lomelosia_) are _Leveillula taurica_ (Lév.) Arnoud (with strongly dimorphic conidia), and _Sphaerotheca dipsacearum_ (Tul. & Tul.) Junell, (with conidia in true chains and with fibrosin bodies) (1). The specimen conformed to the description of _E. knautiae_ (1) regarding usual variation in conidial length and width, but differed by slightly diminished ranges for maxima and minima. About 80% of the foot cells of the specimen also conformed to the description, but a minority of foot cells were longer than described. GenBank records are lacking for _E. knautiae_, although some records for _Oidium_ sp., intriguing if not conclusive, are mentioned below. Identification was performed on the basis of host and morphology.

Print or online references typically note powdery mildew of pincushion flower (sometimes specifying host species), and occasionally make management recommendations, sometimes including fungicides. No such references were located documenting species or even generic identity of powdery mildew (other than ‘Oidium,’ which may denote anamorphs of _Erysiphe, Golovinomyces, Neoerysiphe, Podosphaera_, or other genera). GenBank includes a record for _Oidium_ sp. on _Scabiosa columbaria_ L. from New York, having high sequence similarity to an _Oidium_ sp. from _Knautia arvensis_ (L.) J.M. Coult. in the Netherlands; the original report assigned the Netherlands _Oidium_ to _E. knautiae_ on unspecified criteria, and summarized sequence similarities of the _Oidium_ isolates to _Oidium_ on other hosts (3). The host-fungus record documented herein appears novel for North America. This or other species of powdery mildew are recorded on _L. caucasica_ in Europe, Armenia, or the former USSR (3). _Erysiphe knautiae_ has been reported from Washington State on _S. columbaria_ L., and “_Erysiphe polygoni_” (probably not _E. polygoni_ DC, restricted to the Polygonaceae) has been reported on _Scabiosa_ sp. and _S. atropurpurea_ L. in the United States (1,3).

**Literature Cited**