
COMMUNICATIONS

POLLEN MORPHOLOGY OF TRIBE ANDROSACEAE (PRIMULACEAE)

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The pollen morphology of 26 species of *Androsace*, 7 of *Douglasia*, 6 of *Primula*, 1 of *Vitaliana* and 1 of *Pomatosace* was examined using the light and scanning electron microscope with respect to the taxonomy of the tribe Androsaceae. The pollen grains of Androsaceae are radially symmetrical, isopolar, 3-colporate, subspheroidal, elliptic or prolate, small or medium-sized (ranging in size from 10.3 μm in *Androsace* to 28.8 μm in *Vitaliana*), with perforate, microreticulate, rugulate-perforate, microverrucate exine. The shape in polar view is trilobate, almost circular or triangular, the shape in equator view is almost circular, elliptic or rectangular. The colpi are long and narrow, the endoapertures are circular or lalongate. The palynological data do not agree with the systems of *Androsace*. It seems to be difficult to differentiate sections of *Androsace*, except for the section *Megista*. The palynological data supports the inclusion of *Douglasia*, *Pomatosace* and *Vitaliana* in *Androsace*. The pollen morphology of most *Androsace* is unique within Primulaceae. However, pollen of some species of *Androsace* (*A. gmelini*, *A. henryi*, *A. rotundifolia*) is similar to that of some *Primula* (for example, *P. darialica*, *P. farinifolia*, *P. forbesii*, *P. longiscapa*, *P. malacoides*, *P. zeylamica*).

Keywords: *Androsace*, *Douglasia*, *Vitaliana*, *Pomatosace*, *Primula*, Primulaceae, pollen morphology

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