Taxonomic significance of stamens and pollen morphology of some selected taxa of Primulaceae in Egypt

Mona Adel Shiha

Biology and Geology Department, Faculty of Education, Alexandria University

Corresponding author: shihaalex@yahoo.com

Abstract

The circumscription study of Primulaceae is still uncertain and remains controversial. Stamens and pollen grains morphological characters of five species and one variety representing five genera viz., Anagallis, Lysimachia, Coris, Primula and Samolus of Primulaceae in Egypt have been studied using LM and SEM. The specific target of the present study is to evaluate the taxonomic value of the macro and micromorphological characters of stamens and pollen grains in order to distinguish between the studied species. The obtained results showed remarkable variations in anther shape, anther dehiscence, filament attachment and presence of trichomes on the anther filament. Pollen grains are radially symmetrical, isopolar, spheroidal-subprolate to prolate, with amb angulaperturate or fossaperturate and tricolpate or tricolporate. Tectum is microreticulate, reticulate with perforated lumine and clavate exine ornamentation. Out of the studied taxa Coris monspeliensis is distinguished by the presence of prominent margo, reticulate exine ornamentation, minute luminal perforations decreasing towards the colpi, orbicular anther shape, latrorse dehiscence of anthers with short longitudinal slit and presence of glandular diseriate trichomes at the base of the filaments. Clavate exine ornamentation as well as lanceolate anther shape, extrorse dehiscence and short filament can distinguished Samolus valerandi from the remaining studied taxa. An artificial key for the studied species was constructed based on stamens and pollen morphological criteria is provided.

Keywords: Anther dehiscence, Exine ornamentation, Primulaceae, Pollen grain, Stamen

Introduction

Primulaceae (order Ericales) comprises about 2590 species circumscribed in 58 genera (Stevens, 2001 onwards), distributed in the Northern hemisphere. The family includes herbs, shrubs and trees. The flowers are characterized with sympetalous corolla, stamens epipetalous, opposite the petals, free central placentaion, bitemgic tenuinucellate ovules, and nuclear endosperm (Källersjö et al., 2000).

In Egypt, Primulaceae (including Coridaceae) are represented by five genera, two subspecies and two varieties (Täckholm, 1974), while Boulos (2000) added one more subspecies viz.: Anagallis L. (with two subspecies and two varieties), Lysimachia L., Coris L., Primula L., and Samolus L.

The circumscription study of Primulaceae is still uncertain and remains controversial. Primulaceae was treated as a sister group of Maesaceae, Myrsinaceae, and Theophrastaceae in the Primulales (Anderberg et al. 1998, 2000 and Källersjö et al. 2000). Those closely related families based on morphological and molecular data were subordinated as subfamilies within Primulaceae. In this sense, Primulaceae now comprises the subfamilies Maesoideae, Myrsinoideae, Primuloideae, and Theophrastoideae (Stevens, 2001 onwards).

The floral characteristics have proven to be valuable in defining relationship within Primulaceae (El-Karemy & Hosni, 1993; Oh et al., 2008; Morozowska et al., 2011; Xu et al., 2016 and Luna et al., 2017). Stamens and pollen morphology have been of interest for over one century few studies on these topics have been done (Bonner and Dickinson, 1989, 1990; Keijzer et al.,
Taxonomic significance of stamens and pollen morphology

1996 and Islam et al., 2008). However, very few reports regarding the taxonomic significance of stamen and pollen morphology as seen by LM and SEM are available of Primulaceae. Accordingly, the present study deals with stamens and pollen grains morphology of six studied species in order to evaluate the importance of these diagnostic characters as criteria for taxonomic delimitation.

Material and methods

Herbarium and living specimens of the studied taxa of Primulaceae were collected from various sources (table 1). For LM investigation, stamens were prepared for LM and SEM investigation. Pollen grains were acetolyzed according to Erdtmann (1960). At least 30 fully developed grains per specimen were examined by using Zeiss light microscope with an eye piece micrometer. For SEM investigation, dehydrated stamens and dry pollen grains were transferred directly on a stub with double-sided tape, coated for five minutes with a thin layer of gold in a polar on JEC-1100E ion sputtering coating unite, examined at accelerating voltage of 20 Kv. and then photographed with JEOL JSM-IT200 series SEM (Electron Microscopic Unite, Faculty of Science, Alexandria University). The terminology for stamens morphology based on Endress and Stumpf (1991) and for pollen morphology on Erdtmann (1952) and Punt et al. (2007).

Table 1. Collection data of the studied species of Primulace

| No | Taxa                                      | Locality/ Source / Date and Collector                                      |
|----|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | *Anagallis arvensis* L. var. caerulea Gouan. | Mediterranean Coastal region, Burg El- Arab, 2018. M. Shiha & M. Megahad s.n.(ALEX) |
| 2. | *A. pumila* Sw.                           | Mediterranean Coastal region, Saloum., 21-4-2007, L. Boulos and A. Hegazy s.n.(ALEX) |
| 3. | *Lysimachia linum-stellatum* L. (=*Asterolinon linum-stellatum* (L.) Duby) | Western Mediterranean Coastal region: Amria, 25-4-2007, L. Boulos s,n.(ALEX) |
| 4. | *Coris monspeliensis* L.                  | Mediterranean Coastal region, Ras El- Hekma, 24-4-1997, L. Boulos s.n. (ALEX) |
| 5. | *Primula boveana* Decne.                  | Shagg Musa, Sinai, 8-5-2004, K. Shaltout s.n. (Southern Sinai Herbrium) |
| 6. | *Samolus valerandi* L.                    | Siwa Oasis: Gebel G’aifar, along an irrigation canal in the farm,15-3-1998, K. Shaltout s.n. (Environmental Quality international Herb.) |
### Table 2. Stamen and pollen characters of the studied taxa of Primulaceae

| Taxa                     | A.L. (µm) | A.W. (µm) | Anther Shape | Filament attachment | T. | A.D. | P.A. (µm) | E.A. (µm) | P/E | Shape | Amb | Type | C.L. | Exine sculpture               |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|----|------|-----------|-----------|-----|-------|-----|------|------|-------------------------------|
| Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea | 868.8     | 409.7     | Sagittate    | Dorsifixed long filament | G.A.M. | L.S. | 28.88-30.87 (30.53) | 17.22-18.01 (17.99) | 1.67 | Prolate | F.A. | Tricolporate | 25.01-28.87 (28.62) | Microreticulate          |
| Anagallis pumila         | 787.2     | 453.1     | Sagittate    | Dorsifixed long filament | G.A.M. | L.S. | 19.01-19.93 (19.58) | 14.01-14.93 (14.76) | 1.32 | Subprolate | A.A. | Tricolporate with Bridge | 13.23-13.97 (13.85) | Microreticulate          |
| Lysimachia linum-stellatum | 364.4     | 288.9     | Kidney       | Basifixed short Filament | _____ | L.S. | 21.8-23.1 (22.51) | 10.90-11.5 (11.17) | 2.01 | Prolate | F.A. | Tricolpoate | 18.1-19.0 (18.96) | Microreticulate          |
| Coris monspeliensis      | 500       | 560       | Orbicular    | Basifixed-long Filament | G.D.M. | S.L.S. | 24.93-25.78 (25.41) | 16.92-17.83 (17.51) | 1.43 | Prolate | F.A. | Tricolporate | 20.87-21.43 (21.25) | Reticulate - perforate lumin, double baculate muri |
| Primula boveana          | 2.481 mm  | 623.7     | Lanceolate   | Basifixed short filament | _____ | L.S. | 21.83-22.67 (22.24) | 18.92-19.45 (19.15) | 1.16 | Sheroidal | Subprolate | A.A. | Tricolporate With Bridge | 16.22-17.05 (16.97) | Microreticulate (Heterobrochate) |
| Samolus valerandi        | 1.368 mm  | 378.9     | Oblong       | Basifixed short filament | _____ | L.S. | 41.8-42.9 (42.35) | 27.87-28.78 (28.23) | 1.5  | Prolate | F.A. | Tricolporate | 16.9-18.9 (18.5) | Clavate                |

Abbreviation: A.A.= Angula Aperturate, A.D.= Anther Dehiscence, A.L. = Anther length, A.W. = Anther width, C.L. = Colpus length, E.A. = Equatorial axis, F.A.= Foss Aperturate, G.A.M.= Glandular Articulate multicellular, G.D.M.= Glandular Diserriate multicellular, L.S.= Longitudinal slit, P.A. = Polar axis, P/E= relation between polar axis and equatorial axis, S.L.S.= Short Longitudinal Slit, T.= Trichome.
**Results**

A summarized stamen and pollen morphological characteristics as revealed by LM & SEM were presented in table 2. Microphotographs by SEM to show specific structures were illustrated in Figs. 1-27. The stamens and pollen morphology of the studied taxa examined using SEM show considerable variations in anther shape, filament attachment, way of anther dehiscence, pollen type, pollen aperture and exine ornamentation.

1. **Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea**

Stamens five, epipetalous arranged opposite the petals. Anthers sagittate shaped, 868.8 µm X 409.7 µm (L x W), latrorse dehiscent (the anther split positioned to the side, towards other anther) and by longitudinal slit. Filaments long dorsifixed with long glandular articulate trichomes. Pollen grains isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolporate, prolate in shape, P/E = 1.6. The polar axis length is 30.53 µm and the equatorial axis (E) is 17.99 µm., with fossaperturate amb. Ectocolpi elongated, nearly equal to the polar axis in length, presence of margo (smooth exine area around the colpus). The exine sculpturing (tectum ornamentation) is microreticulate. Lumina regular rounded in shape with minute granules. (figs. 1, 2, 14, 15).

2. **Anagallis pumila**

Stamen anthers sagittate shaped, anther length is 787.2 µm X 453.1 µm (L x W), extrorse dehiscence by longitudinal slit. Filaments very long and dorsifixed. Glandular articulate trichrome spread all over the longitudinal axis of the filaments. Pollen grains isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolporate, prolate in shape P/E = 1.6. The polar axis length is 30.53 µm and the equatorial axis (E) is 17.99 µm., with fossaperturate amb. Ectocolpi elongated, distinctly sunken, nearly equal to the polar axis in length (CL= 18.96 µm) with acute ends. The exine sculpture is microreticulate - foveolate (heterobrochate), margo absent. Lumina vary in shape with minute granules, muri latimurate, i.e. muri thicker than the distance cross lumina (figs. 3, 4, 5, 6, 16, 17).

3. **Lysimachia linum- stellatum**

Stamen small sized, reniform shaped, 364.4 µm X 288.9 µm (L x W), extrorse dehiscence by longitudinal slit. Filaments short, basifixed and trichomes wanting. Pollen grains isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolporate, prolate to preprolate in shape P/E = 2.01. The polar axis length is 22.51 µm and the equatorial axis 11.17 µm, with fossaperturate amb. Ectocolpi elongated, distinctly sunken, nearly equal to the polar axis in length (CL= 18.96 µm) with acute ends. The exine sculpture is microreticulate - foveolate (heterobrochate), margo absent. Lumina vary in shape with minute granules, muri latimurate, i.e. muri thicker than the distance cross lumina (figs. 7, 8, 18, 19).

4. **Coris monspeliensis**

Stamens small, orbicular, 500 µm X 560 µm (L x W), latrorse and dehisced by short longitudinal slit. The filaments very long and basifixed. Few glandular, multicellular, diseriate trichomes detected at the base of the filaments. (figs 9, 10, 11). Pollen grains isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolporate, prolate in shape, P/E = 1.43. The polar axis length is 33.76 µm and the equatorial axis is 23.33 µm, with angular-aperturate amb. Ectocolpi elongated, nearly equal to the polar axis in length (CL= 30.0 µm) with acute ends and small apocolpi. The colpus margin is distinct, often raised at the equator. The endoaerture lalongate, extending beyond the boundaries of the ectocolpi and covered with conspicuous operculum. The exine sculpture at mesocolpi reticulate with minute luminal perforation. However, the exine area bordering the colpi called the

---

**Taxonomic significance of stamens and pollen morphology**

---

**4**
Figs 1-8. SEM micrographs of stamens in Primulaceae  Figs 1, 2 *Anagallis arvensis* var *caerulea*; 1-adaxial showing longitudinal slit ,2- abaxial surface showing dorsifixed attachment of the anther, articulate multicellular trichomes scattered allover the filament. Figs 3-6 *Anagallis pumila*; 3- showing longitudinal slit, 4,5 abaxial surface showing dorsifixed attachment of the anther, 6- showing articulate multicellular trichomes. Figs 7,8 *Lysimachia linum-stellatum*; 7- adaxial showing longitudinal slit ,8- showing basifixed attachment.
Figs 9-13. SEM micrographs of stamens in Primulaceae. Figs 9-11 *Coris monspeliensis*; 9- showing stamens with trichomes at the base of the filament, 10- showing orbicular anther shape with short longitudinal slit and basifixed attachment, 11- showing glandular diseriate trichomes. Fig 12- *Primula boveana*; showing lanceolate anther, longitudinal slit and basifixed attachment. Fig 13- *Samolus valerandi*; showing oblong anther, longitudinal slit and basifixed attachment.
Figs 14-19. SEM micrographs of pollen grains of Primulaceae. Figs 14, 15 *Anagallis arvensis* var. *caerulea*; 14- oblique equatorial view showing colpate, microreticulate ornamentation and presence of margo. 15- polar view showing fossaperturate amb. Figs 16, 17 *Anagallis pumila*; 16- oblique equatorial view showing colporate pollen and ektexine bridge, 17- showing triangular aperture amb. Figs 18, 19 *Lysimachia linum-stellatum*; 18-equatorial view showing colpate and microreticulate exine ornamentation, 19- polar view showing fossaperturate amb and microreticulate sculpture in the amb.
Figs 20-27. SEM micrographs of pollen grains of Primulaceae. Figs 20-23 *Coris monspeliensis*; 20- equatorial view showing colporate pollen, reticulate exine ornamentation and presence of margo. 21- showing ektexine bridge, 22- angulaperturate amb, 23- reticulate exine with perforated lumina and double baculate muri. Figs 24,25 *Primula boveana*; 24- equatorial view showing colporate pollen, microreticulate exine, 25- polar view showing angulaperturate amb. Figs 26,27 *Samolus valerandi*; 26- equatorial view showing colporate pollen, clavate exine ornamentation, 27- oblique polar view showing fossaperturate amb.
margosmooth. Muri straight, polygonal, double baculate and angustimurate, i.e. muri narrower than the distance across the lumina (figs. 20, 21, 22, 23).

5. *Primula boveana*

Stamens large in size, lanceolate shape, 2.481 mm X 623.7 µm (L X W), extrorse and dehisce by longitudinal slit. Filaments short and basifixed. Trichomes wanting (fig. 12). Pollen isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolporate, spheroidal to subprolate in shape P/E= 1.16-1.3. Polar axis (P) = 22.24 µm, and equatorial axis E=19.15 µm with angulaperturate amb. Ectocolpi granulated and elongated with acute or rounded end. The colpus margin distinct, often raised at the equator. The endoaperture lalongate, extending beyond the boundaries of the ectocolpi and covered with conspicuous operculum. The exine sculpture microreticulate (figs. 24, 25).

6. *Samolus valerandi*

Stamen large, oblong shaped, its 1.368 mm X 378.9 µm (L X W), extrorse and dehisce by longitudinal slit. Filament short and basifixed. Trichomes wanting (fig. 13) Pollen grains isopolar, radiosymmetric, tricolpate, prolate in shape P/E = 1.5. The polar axis length is 42.35 µm and the equatorial axis 28.23 µm with fossaperturate amb. Ectocolpi granulated and elongated, nearly equal to the polar axis in length (CL= 35.29 µm) with acute ends and small apocolpi. Exine sculpture clavate, free standing columella (figs. 26, 27).

Discussion

From the foregoing data it was considered that stamens and pollen morphological characters are considered diagnostic at the generic and specific level among the studied six species of Primulaceae as examined by light LM & SEM. The taxonomic significance of pollen morphology in some members of Primulaceae has already been evident (Anderberg and El- Gazaly, 2000; Aboel Atta and Shehata, 2003; Morozowska *et al*., 2011 and Luna *et al*., 2017).

Stamen morphology of the studied taxa showed great variation with regards to anther dehiscence (long or short longitudinal suture), anther attachments (basifixed and dorsifixed), anther shape (sagittate, reniform, orbicular, oblong or lanceolate) filament indumentum such as glandular articulate multicellular or glandular diserriate multicellular. Moreover the pollen grains show considerable variation with respect to the type of apertures, as well as size of pollen and exine ornamentation. The type of apertures generally two; tricolpate and tricolporate. The pollen grains shape varies from spheroidal - subprolate to prolate, radially symmetrical and isopolar, ranging in size from 19.58 µm in *Anagallis pumila* to 42.35 µm in *Samolus valerandi*. The colpi nearly equal the polar pollen length. The colpi well defined lack margo as in *Anagallis primula*, *Lysimachia linum-stellatum*, *Primula boveana*, and *Samolus valerandi*. Margo well defined as in *Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea* and *Coris monspeliensis*. The present finding is in accord with Punt *et al*., (1974) and Carrion *et al*., (1993) since they described pollen morphology of *Coris* species.

*Coris* stamen is characterized by nearly round anther short longitudinal slit and very long filament provided with short biseriate glandular trichomes at the filament base. Pollen can be distinguished from the remaining of studied taxa of Primulaceae by the conjunction of relatively large pollen grains, prominent margo, and reticulate exine pattern with the peculiar perforate tectum. The position of *Coris* in the Primulaceae has been acknowledged by most authors as a separate tribe Corideae (Pax, 1897 and Chant, 1978) or Coridoideae (Takhtajan, 1980) but not unanimously so. However, the family Coridaceae were accepted near the Primulaceae or inter-mediate between the...
Primulaceae and the Lythraceae (Sattler, 1962; Willis 1973; Dahlgren, 1983 and Takhtajan, 2009). Indeed, Coris differs in a number of conspicuous characters from the Primulaceae, such as the sub-shrubby habit, zygomorphic flower, and toothed calyx tube. Sattler (1962) found sufficient differences in the floral development of Coris to support the acceptance of a family Coridaceae. According the present result in addition with the previous finding of Sattler (1962), Willis (1973) and Dahlgren (1983) studying its floral development support the exclusion of Coris in a separate family Coridaceae.

Based on the data in the present study, Samolus valerandi is characterized by the presence of staminodes opposite the sepals, antipetalous five fertile stamens, extrorse anther dehiscence and oblong anther shape and unique clavate exine ornamentation. The present result is in accord with Caris and Smets (2004) who proposed to keep Samolus in a separate family Samolaceae.

So far as the data of the present work are concerned, the subsequent artificial key based on the stamens and pollen characters are provided to enable the different taxa of Primulaceae to be distinguished.

1A. Pollen grain tricolpate
   1B. Exine ornamentation microreticulate
      1C. Trichomes present, glandular articulate, multicellular……………... Anagallis arvensis var. caerulea
      1D. Trichomes absent ……………………………… Lysimachia linum-stellatum
      1E. Anther shape sagittate, presence of glandular trichomes …………... Anagallis pumila
      2A. Pollen grain tricolporate
      2B. Exine ornamentation clavate ……………………………… Samolus valerandi
      2C. Trichomes absent ……………………..…………… Lysimachia linum-stellatum
      2D. Exine ornamentation reticulate with perforated lumina……………... Coris monspeliensis

References

Aboel Atta, AM.I.I. & Shehata, A.A. 2003. On the delimitation of Anagallis arvensis (Primulaceae) I. Evidence based on macromorphological characters, palynological features and karyological studies. Pak. J. Biol. Sci. 6(1): 29-35
Anderberg, A.A., Stähl, B. & Källersjö, M. 1998. Phylogenetic relationships in the Primulales inferred from rbcL sequence data. Plant Syst. Evol. 211:93–102
Anderberg AA., Stähl, B. & Kälersjö, M. 2000. Maesaceae, a new primuloid family in the order Ericales s.l. Taxon 49:183–187
Anderberg, A.A. & El-Ghazaly, G. 2000. Pollen morphology in Primula sect. Carolinella (Primulaceae) and its taxonomic implications Nord. J. Bot. 20: 5-14.
Bonner, J.L. & Dickinson, H.G. 1989. Anther dehiscence in Lycopersicon esculentum Mill. I. Structural aspects. New Phytologist 113: 97–115.
Bonner, J.L. & Dickinson, H.G. 1990. Anther dehiscence in Lycopersicon esculentum. 2. Water relations. New Phytologist 115: 367–375.
Boulos, L. 2000. Flora of Egypt. Vol.2 Al Hadara Publishing, Cairo, Egypt.
Caris, P.L. & Smets, E.F. 2004. Floral ontogenetic study on the sister group (Primulaceae). Amer. J. Bot. 91:627–643.
Carrion, J.S., Delgado, M.J. & Garcia, M. 1993. Pollen grains morphology of Coris (Primulaceae). Pl. Sys. Evol. 184: 89-100.

Chant, S.R. 1978. Primulaceae. In V.H. Heywood (ed.) flowering plants of the world. Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Dahlgren, R. 1983. General aspects of angiosperm evolution and macrosystematics. Nord. J. Bot. 3: 119–149.

El-Karemy, Z.A.R. & Hosni, H.A. 1993. Systematic studies on the Egyptian species of the family Primulaceae. Feddes Repertorium 104 (5-6): 327-334.

Endress, P.K. & Stumpf, F.S. 1991. The diversity of stamen in lower Rosoieleae (Rosales, Fabales, Proteales, Sapindales), Bot. J. Linn.Soc. 107 (3): 217-293.

Erdtman, G. 1952. Pollen morphology and Plant Taxonomy (An introduction to Angiosperm). Almqvist and Wiksell, Stockholm.

Erdtman, G. 1960. The acetolysis method: A revised description. Svensk Botanisk Tidskrift. 54: 561-564.

Luna, B. N. D., Freitas, M. de-F, Bass P., De toni, K. L. G. & Barros, C. F. 2017. Leaf anatomy of five Neotropical genera of Primulaceae. Int. J. Plant Sci. 178 (5): 362-377.

Islam, M.S., R. Abid & Qaiser, M. 2008. Anther types of Dicots within Flora of Karachi, Pak. J. Bot. 40(1): 33-41.

Källersjö, M., Bergqvist, G. & Anderberg, A.A. 2000. Generic realignment in primuloid families of the Ericales s.l.: a phylogenetic analysis based on DNA sequences from three chloroplast genes and morphology. Am. J. Bot. 87:1325–1341.

Keijzer, C.J., Leferink-ten Klooster, H.B. & Reinders, M.C. 1996. The mechanics of the grass flower: anther dehiscence and pollen shedding in maize. Ann. Bot. 78: 15–21.

Morozowska, M., Czarna, A., Kujawa, M. & Jagodzinski, A. M. 2011. Seed morphology and endosperm structure of selected species of Primulaceae, Myrsinaceae, and Theophrastaceae and their systematic importance. Plant Syst. Evol. 291: 159-172.

Oh, I-C, Anderberg, A.L., Schönenberger, J. & Anderberg, A.A. 2008. Comparative seed morphology and character evolution in the genus Lysimachia (Myrsinaceae) and related taxa. Plant Syst. Evol. 271:177–197.

Pax, F. 1897. Primulaceae. In A. Engler and K. Prantl. (eds) - Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien IV (1):98-116- W. Engelmann, Leipzig.

Punt, W., Leeuw van Weenan, J., van Oostrum, W.A.P. 1974. The Northwest European Pollen Flora 3. Primulaceae. Rev. Paleobot. and Palynol. 17: 31–70.

Punt, W., Hoen, P.P., Nilsson, S. & Thomas, L. 2007. Glossary of Pollen and Spore Terminology. Revi. Paleobot. and Palynol. 143: 1-81.

Sattler, R. 1962. Zur frühen Infloreszenz- und Blütenentwicklung der Primulales sensu lato mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Stamen-Petalum Entwicklung. Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 81: 358–396.

Stevens, P. F. 2001 onwards. Angiosperm Phylogeny Website. Version 14, July 2017 [and more or less continuously updated since] .will do.http://www.mobot.org/MOBOT/research/APweb

Täckholm, V., 1974. Students' Flora of Egypt. 2nd ed. Cairo University.

Takhtajan, A. L. 1980. Outline of the classification of flowering plants (Magnoliophyta). Bot. Rev. 46 (3): 225-359.

Takhtajan, A. L. 2009. Flowering plants, 2nd ed - Springer.

Willis, J. C. 1973. A dictionary of the flowering plants and ferns. 8th ed. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, UK.

Xu, Y., Hu, C.M. & Huo, G. 2016. Pollen morphology of Androsace (Primulaceae) and its systematic implications. J. Syst. Evol. 54 (1): 48-64.