Bryin. 2: 228. 1898.

**Type:** Canada, British Columbia, Selkirk Mts., Rogers Pass, Aug. 1890, leg. J. Macoun (Canadian Musci No. 524), lectotype, designated by Muñoz (1999), FH!; isolectotype NY!  
**Synonyms:** R. alternuatum (C. Müll. & Kindb.) Kindb., R. heterostichum var. macounii (Kindb.) Jones., Racomitrium macounii Kindb.  
**Distribution:** Am.1

**Description**  
Grimmia attenuata forms robust plants in loose tufts, reddish in upper part, black and frequently defoliated below, the leaves are dull, densely implanted, straight appressed when dry, erectopatent when moist, lanceolate, sharply keeled above, the costa is 70-120 µm wide below, channeled above, projecting on dorsal side, the hair-points are terete, firm and short, denticulate, the margins are narrowly reflexed on both sides. The distal areolation is unistratose, apex and margins bistratose, mid-leaf cells are elongate with extremely incrassate and nodulose longitudinal walls, the basal marginal cells are in few rows short rectangular with thin walls, the basal juxtacostal cells are linear with extremely incrassate, ± porose walls. The sexuality is dioicus, the seta is cygneous, 3.5 mm long, capsules are sporadically present, they are exserted, ovoid, smooth with a rostrate operculum.

**Discussion**  
Grimmia attenuata was initially published as Racomitrium attenuatum, nom. nud., subsequently described as R. alternuatum (C. Müll. & Kindb.) Kindb. (nom. err. pro R. attenuatum), and finally published as Grimmia attenuata (C. Müll. & Kindb.) Kindb. It resembles forms of the extremely variable Racomitrium heterostichum, and because Jones (1933) mentioned five varieties of this latter species, it is not surprising that in herbaria, e.g. in NY, all specimens of G. attenuata had been stored as varieties of R. heterostichum. Kindberg realized that his species was not a Racomitrium but a Grimmia, and he wrote: “Habit of G. elatior”. In spite of Kindberg's correct transmission to Grimmia, Frye (1918) synonymized it with R. macounii. The confusion was enlarged when Möller (1929) synonymized it with Grimmia elatior, and Muñoz (1999a) published Grimmia attenuata incorrectly as G. arcuatifolia Kindb., which is a synonym of G. lisae De Not.
Specimens examined
Canada:


References: