

THE SPECIES AND SUBSPECIES IN THE DRYOPTERIS AFFINIS GROUP

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Key words: *Dryopteris affinis*, Europe, taxonomy, specific rank, subspecies, hybrids

ABSTRACT

Following discussion of the different levels of variation and the ranking of the taxa, "morphotypes" have been replaced with formal names. The main taxa within the *Dryopteris affinis* aggregate in Europe, formerly treated as subspecies of *D. affinis*, are treated as six species, while the former geographical varieties are treated as nine subspecies belonging to three of the species. Seven new combinations are made at the subspecific rank and two new subspecies are described. A new species-name, *D. iranica* Fras.-Jenk. replaces *D. wallichiana* subsp. *coriacea* (Fras.-Jenk.) Fras.-Jenk. Four hybrids between the *D. affinis* agg. and *D. filix-mas* are treated at the nothospecific rank, two of them new and a third a new combination. Two of the hybrids are divided into six nothosubspecies, three of them new. A detailed key and comparative diagnostic descriptions are given, but it is not intended here to discuss the proposed different origins for the taxa and the evidence for those origins.