

## Race-formation in the *Crepis tectorum* group

A. N. Sennikov

*Alexander N. Sennikov, Herbarium, Komarov Botanical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Prof. Popov str. 2, Saint Petersburg 197376, Russia  
E-mail: sennikov@herb.bin.ras.spb.ru*

Taxonomic account for the group treated earlier as a single species *Crepis tectorum* L. is done. The 5 taxa recognised are treated at the species level. Due to achene specificity, it is proposed to consider this group as a new section *Ruderalia* Sennik. Morphological and geographical data as well as nomenclature are given for all the taxa. *C. foliosa*, earlier treated as endemic to the Ural mountains, display very large distribution in Eurasia. *C. tectorum* s. str. is found to be a species of hybrid origin, probably between *C. ramosissima* and *C. foliosa*.

One of the most active and widespread members of the genus *Crepis*, *C. tectorum* L. s. l. is extremely polymorphous which cause a lot of trouble for taxonomists. A well-known and common view of this taxon is that to accept the only one species with several varieties (Babcock, 1947) or subspecies (Sell, 1976) within. Another point of view which, in my opinion, represents the facts more accurately, is that to consider this complex as a group of mostly vicarious geographical races of the species rank (Czerepanov, 1964, 1989). On the base of literature evidence as well as voluminous herbarium collections (LE), I came to conclusion that the variability of some features in *C. tectorum* s. l. is not accidental but indicates the existence of 5 species that form an indivisible and well-isolated group which I propose to treat as a new section *Ruderalia* Sennik.

This new section differs from closely related section *Macropodes* Babc. as well as from *C. bungei* Ledeb. ex DC. (the nomenclature type of the section *Mesophyllion* Babc., to which *C. tectorum* was attributed by E. B. Babcock (1947)) by the following complex of features: always 10-ribbed (not 10–12- and more ribbed) achene covered by distinct setules (not almost smooth); uniserial (not biserial) pappus; the annual life-form (not a perennial caudiculous one).

The most significant diagnostic character for species separation within section *Ruderalia* is that of indumentum. In some cases it also correlates with the features of the calathidium size and the shape of cauline leaves.

### Sect. *Ruderalia* Sennik. sect. nov.

Plantae annuae, foliis integris, pinnatifidis vel pinnatisectis auriculatis. Achaenia 10-costata, facie setulis rigidis brevissimis in seriebus transversalibus obsita; pappus albus uniserialis pilis tenuibus non deciduis.

Annual herbs; leaves entire, pinnatifid or pinnatisect, usually auriculate. Achenes fusiform, 10-ribbed, covered with short spicules; pappus white, uniserial with fine persistent fragile setae.

T.: *C. tectorum* L.

### Key to species

1. Leaves pinnatisect, with large oblong terminal lobe and rotundate lateral lobes; plants almost without arachnid indumentum ..... 5. *C. czerepanovii*.
- + Leaves entire or pinnatifid; plants usually abundantly, sometimes slightly arachnid ..... 2.
2. Involucre bracts with eglandular piles only ..... 3.