

cies of *Lactuca* and *Leontodon*, to this substance must be attributed the real or pretended efficacy of these plants against the bites of poisonous reptiles. From this circumstance arose the name of *SCORZONERA*, a genus sufficiently abundant in the South of Europe, the name of which is nothing more than a corruption of the Spanish word *escorzo*, a viper, the plants of this genus having been popularly administered as remedies for the bite of that animal, hence it is called also "Viper's-grass."

529. LACTUCA. L. (Lettuce.)

Calix imbricated, cylindric, margin (of the segments) membranaceous. *Receptacle* naked, *Pappus* simple, stipitate. *Seed* even.

Vegetation partly similar to that of *Sonchus*. Flowers yellow, more rarely blue.

SPECIES. 1. *L. elongata*. *L. longifolia?* Mich. 2. **hirsuta*. Muhl. Catal. Lower part of the stem and leaves hirsutely pilose, radical ones lyrate, segments truncate, subdentate, the upper leaves partly runcinate-pinnatifid; flowers racemose, squamæ subulate. HAB. In Pennsylvania. Pappus stipitate v. s. In Herb. Muhl. 3. *graminifolia*.

4. **integrifolia*. Leaves subamplexicaule, ovate-oblong, all entire, smooth; panicle few-flowered, branchlets squamose; flowers large and blue. *L. oblongifolia*. T. N. in Fras. Catal. *Sonchus pulchellus*. PH. 2. p. 502. HAB. On the grassy alluvial soils of the Missouri and the lesser streams, from the Arikarees to the Mountains. Allied to *Sonchus sibiricus*, but the pappus is stipitate. OBS. Root perennial. Stem 1 and a half, to 2 feet high, dividing irregularly above into a few-flowered, fastigate panicle. Leaves somewhat glaucous, very entire below, of an irregular, elongated oblong form, stem leaves sometimes with a single setaceous tooth at the base. Flowers about the size, and nearly the colour, of those of *Cichorium Intybus*. *Calix* cylindric. Flowering in August and September.

Excepting the above, almost exclusively an European genus containing 22 species. Scarcely a natural group, a mere section of *Sonchus*? The native country of the common Sallad Lettuce (*L. sativa*) can now no longer be ascertained.

530. SONCHUS. L. (Sow-Thistle.)

Calix imbricated, ventricose. *Receptacle* naked. *Pappus* pilose, sessile.