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A NEW SPECIES OF *LACTUCA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM KASHMIR, INDIA¹

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(With four text-figures)

Lactuca kashmiriana sp. nov., a new species allied to *L. decipiens* Clarke is described.

During the course of a revision of the subtribe *Lactuceae* in India, we examined some specimens which showed affinities to *Lactuca decipiens* Clarke in general habit of plant but on critical examination of specimens both at BSD and DD, proved that the specimens were of a new species, which is described here.

***Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.**

L. decipienti Clarke affinis, sed differt bracteis involucribus exterioribus perbrevioribus, bracteis involucribus interioribus ad centrum fuscatis cum marginibus hyalinis; acheniis gradatim angustatis ad rostrum longum cum costis regularibus manifestis in duobus lateribus.

Herba perennis. Caulis ca 60-80 cm altus, erectus, glaber, sursum paniculatim ramosus. Folia ca 4-5 × 3-5 cm., numerosa e basi ad medium caulis, cum foliis minoribus ad axillas foliorum latiorum, folia inferiora et supramediana cum petiolis longis alatisque, membrana-

cea, cordata vel deltoidea, varie dentata, sagittata vel auriculata, suprema acute serrata, ovata vel hastata. Inflorescentia paniculatim ramosa. Capitula ca 13-14 x 1-2.5 mm in ramis terminalibus, cernuis, angustis, cylindricis, 2-3 floris, pedunculus parvus, gracilis, glaber, nutans, flosculus ligulatus, ligula purpurea vel azurea. Bractee involucriales exteriores ca 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm, ovatae, bractee involucriales interiores 5, aequales, ca 13-14 x 2-2.5 mm, lineari-lanceolati, perangustati, glabri vel setosi, cum centro fuscato, marginibus hyalinis, quam bracteis exterioribus perlongiores. Achenia ca 6-6.5 mm longa, oblanceolata, gradatim angustata ad rostrum longum; costae regulares, manifesti, cum costa mediana conspicua in uno latere, 11-12 costata in altere latere, angustata ad uterque extremitates quam centro, glabra, pallide luteo brunnea. Pappus ca 4-5 mm, pallide albidus.

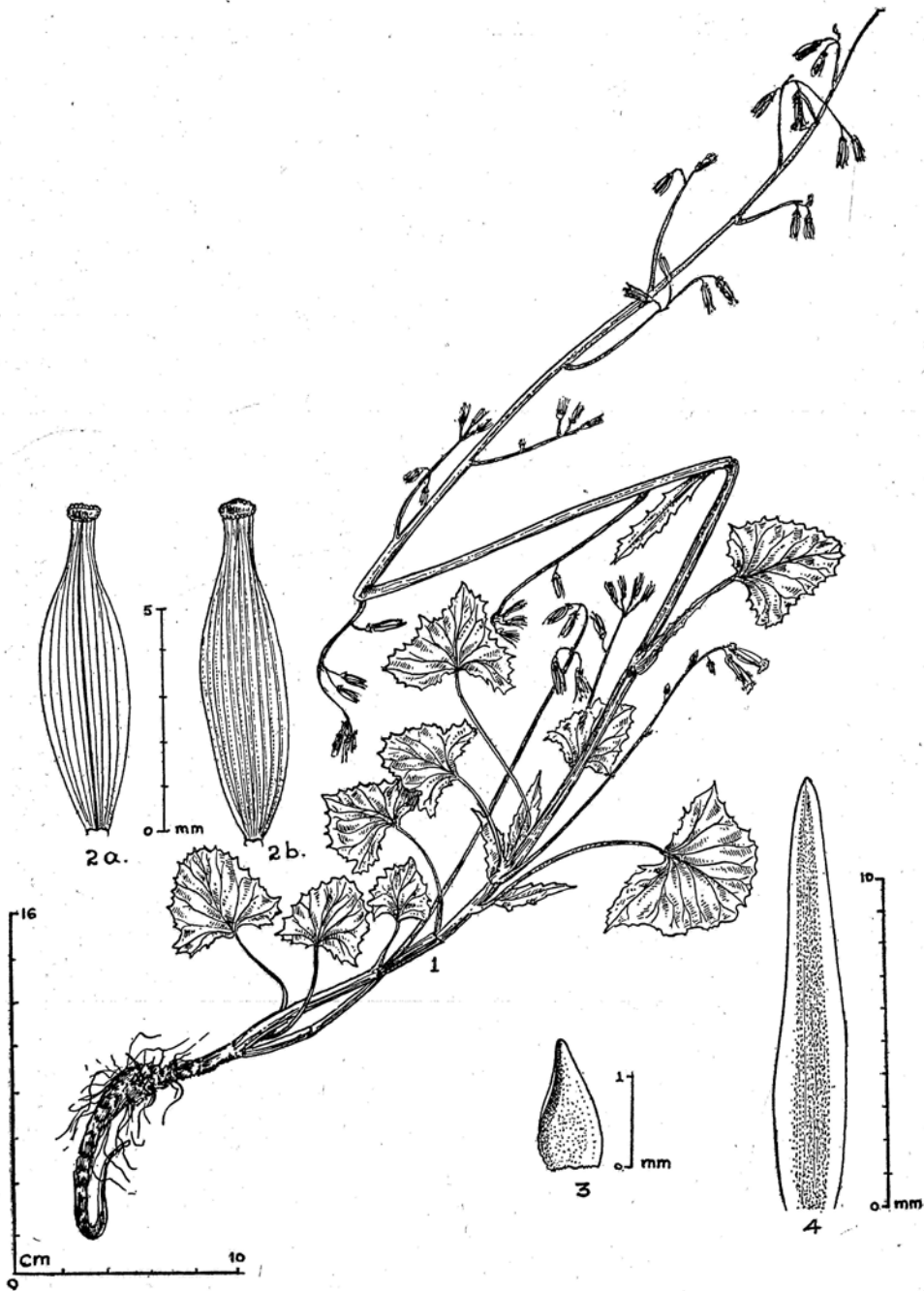
Holotypus lectus: INDIA: Kashmir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A et positus in CAL.

***Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.**

Allied to *Lactuca decipiens* Clarke, but

¹ Accepted January 1986.

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Figs. 1-4. *Lactuca kashmiriana* sp. nov.

1. Habit; 2. (a) Achene (ventral side); 2. (b) Achene (dorsal side); 3. Outer involucre bracts; 4. Inner involucre bracts.

differs in having much smaller outer involu-
cral bracts, inner involu-
cral bracts dark in
the centre with hyaline margins; achenes
gradually narrowed to a long beak with dis-
tinct and regular ribs on both sides.

Perennial herbs. stem c. 60-80 cm high,
erect, glabrous paniculately branched above.
Leaves c. 4-5 x 3-5 cm many from base to
middle of the stem mixed with number of
smaller leaves at the axils of broader leaves,
lower and upper middle leaves with long and
winged petiole, membranous, cordate or del-
toid, variously toothed, sagittate or auricled,
upper most sharply serrate, ovate or hastate.
Inflorescence paniculately branched. Heads
c. 13-14 x 1-2.5 mm, on terminal branches
drooping, narrow, cylindric, 2-3 flowered,
peduncle small, slender, glabrous, nodding,
florets all ligulate, ligule purple or blue. Outer
involu-
cral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm ovate,
inner involu-
cral bracts 5, equal c. 13-14 x 2-2.5
mm linear lanceolate, much narrowed glabrous
or bristly hairy with darker centre and hyalin-
ed margins, much longer than the outer bracts.
Achenes c. 6-6.5 mm long oblanceolate gra-
dually narrowed to a long beak, ribs regular,
distinct with a conspicuous mid rib on one
side, 11-12 ribbed on other side, narrowed at
both ends from the middle, glabrous, pale
yellowish brown slightly larger than the pappus
c. 4-5 mm pale whitish.

Fls. & Frts.: September.

Specimen studied: Holotype: India, Kash-
mir: Degwan B. M. Wadhwa 67012A (CAL);
Isotype B. M. Wadhwa 67012B (BSD).

Remarks: Erect perennial herbs, florets
purple or blue. This species is very distinct
from all other species of *Lactuca* but shows
slight resemblances to *L. decipiens* Clarke;
however it can be separated as follows.

- A. Outer involu-
cral bracts c. 4-6.5 x 1.5-2.5 mm
unequal half of the length of the inner bracts,
inner involu-
cral bracts much broad bristly hairy
uniform in colour. Achene abruptly narrowed
into small beak more or less glabrous or very
sparsely hairy, ribs not very distinct. Blackish
Brown. *Lactuca decipiens*
- B. Outer involu-
cral bracts c. 1-1.5 x 0.5-1 mm
all equal much smaller than the inner one;
inner involu-
cral bracts very narrow glabrous or
sparsely bristly hairy with dark centre and
hyaline margins. Achenes gradually narrowed in
to a long beak, glabrous, ribs distinct regular,
yellowish brown. *Lactuca kashmiriana*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the Director, Botanical
Survey of India, Howrah for facilities and to
Dr. N. C. Majumdar, Regional Botanist, Bota-
nical Survey of India, Dehra Dun for Latin
translation. The Senior author is also grateful
to Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah
for providing a research fellowship.