

A NEW SPECIES OF *LACTUCA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

S. K. MAMGAIN AND R. R. RAO

Botanical Survey of India, Dehra Dun

During the course of a revisionary study on the subtribe *Lactuceae* in India, the authors encountered some specimens which showed affinities with *Lactuca rapunculoides* Clarke in the general habit of plant, shape of upper and lower leaves, in the drooping nature of the inflorescence and in having outer involucre bracts much shorter than the inner. Critical examination of these specimens both at BSD and DD, particularly the achene character and the involucre, proved that these specimens belong to a new species, which is described here.

Lactuca lahulensis Mamgain et R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.* Proxime affinis *L. rapunculoides* Clarke, sed different acheniis brevioribus, abrupte angustalis ad rostrum parvum pallidum, bracteis involucrelibus perbrevioribus, glabris paucisetulosisve.

Herbae perennes. Ceulis ca 50-80 cm altus, erectus, glaber, eramosus vel raro sursum paniculatim ramosus. Folia ca 4-7 × 3-7 cm, folia superiora mediana tenuiter membranacea, petiolis longis, late alatis, ad basin sagittatis rotundatisve, auriculatis, lamina late cordata vel deltoidea, varie dentata, folia suprema sessilia, ovata vel lanceolata. Inflorescentia terminalis, paniculata. Capitula ca 14-16 × 2.5-3.0 mm in ramis subpaniculatis, plusminusve fasciculata, cernua, 3-4-folora, pedunculus parvus, gracilis, glaber, nutans; flosculi ligulati, ligula

alba vel purpurascens. Bractee involucreales exteriores ca 2.0-2.5 × 0.5-1.0 mm, ovatae, glabrae, bractee involucreales interiores 5, aequales, ca 12-12.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm anguste lineari-lanceolatae, glabrae vel setis paucis, minutis, membranaceae. Achenium ca 7-7.5 mm longum, abrupte angustatum ad rostrum parvum pallidum, subcylindricum, 8-costatum in quoque superficie, costa mediana conspicua, prominens, luteo-brunnea, pubescens, pappo parum longior. Pappus 5 mm, pallide albus.

Holotypes lectus : INDIA : Himachal Pradesh : Lahul-Kyelong, U. C. Bhattacharyya 40772 et positus in CAL.

Lactuca lahulensis Mamgain & R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.*

Perennial herbs. Stem ca 50-80 cm high, erect, glabrous, unbranched or rarely paniculately branched above. Leaves ca 4-7 × 3-7 cm, upper middle leaves finely membranous with long and broadly winged petioles, sagittate or rounded at base, auricled, lamina broadly cordate or deltoid, variously toothed, uppermost leaves sessile, ovate or lanceolate. Inflorescence terminal panicles. Heads ca 14-16 × 2.5-3.0 mm, on subpaniculate branches, more or less clustered, drooping, 3-4 flowered; peduncle small, slender, glabrous, nodding; florets all ligulate; ligule white or purplish. Outer involucre bracts ca 2.0-2.5 × 0.5-1.0 mm, ovate, glabrous; inner involucre bracts 5, equal ca 12-12.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm, narrowly linear lanceolate, glabrous or with few minute bristles, mem-

branous. Achene ca 7-7.5 mm long, abruptly narrowed to a small pale beak, sub-cylindric, 8-9-ribbed on each face, median rib conspicuous, raised, yellowish-brown, downy, slightly longer than pappus. Pappus 5 mm, pale white.

Flrs. & Frts. : August.

Specimen studied : Holotype : INDIA : Himachal Pradesh, Lahul-Kyelang (3300) U. C. Bhattacharyya 40772 (CAL). Isotype : U. C. Bhattacharyya 40772 (BSD).

Remarks : Erect, tall herb on north facing slope. Florets white or purple. This species very closely resembles *L. rapunculoides* Clarke, but differs as follows :

A. Achene 10-12 mm long, gradually narrowed at both ends, with a longer and dark

brown beak : outer involucre bracts 3-4 mm long ; inner 15-18 mm long with much scattered bristles, particularly at the tip.

L. rapunculoides

B. Achene 7-7.5 mm long, abruptly narrowed to a small pale beak ; outer involucre bracts 2-2.5 mm long, inner 12-15 mm long, glabrous or with few minute bristles.

L. lahulensis

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