

TWO NEW SPECIES OF LACTUCA FROM TROPICAL AFRICA

BY

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In response to requests for material from Africa for a taxonomic and cytological survey of the genus *Lactuca*, two collections have been received by the writer which represent undescribed species. The first, from Katanga district, in southeastern Belgian Congo, was sent by Dr. W. Robyns, Director of the Botanical Garden, Brussels, and the second by D. C. Edwards, Esq., of the Veterinary Research Laboratory at Kabete, Kenya Colony, East Africa, to both of whom the writer wishes to express his gratitude.

Both species are in the subgenus *Scariola*, and in the same section as *L. tenerrima* Pourr., *L. capensis* Thunb. and *L. abyssinica* Fresen.

For the drawings the writer is indebted to Katharine Drew Jenkins.

Lactuca leptocephala Stebbins sp. nov. (Fig. 19, a and b).

Herba annua, 4-10 dm. alta, caule tenui, glaberrimo, ad basim 2-6 mm. crasso; ramis patentibus, 1-6 dm. longis; foliis glabris vel superne minute puberulis et infra ad venas remote setulosis, caulinis inferioribus 6-12 cm longis, 0.3-1.2 cm. latis, remote dentatis vel denticulatis, sessilibus, auriculatis, auriculis acutis, 5-10 mm. longis; foliis superioribus gradatim reductis, margine integris. *Inflorescentia* cymoso-paniculata, capitulis numerosis, ad ramulos sessilibus vel cum pedunculis 1-12 mm. longis; involucris ad anthesin 7-8 mm., ad fructificationem 11-13 mm. longis, squamis imbricatis, apice saepe minute ciliatis, alibi glaberrimis, saepe purpureo-maculatis; interioribus 5-7, 0.8-1.5 mm. latis, margine

scariosis, exterioribus gradatim reductis, anguste deltoideis vel lanceolatis; flosculis 5-7 pro capitula; corollis violaceis, ad apicem tubi pilosis, alibi glaberrimis, 10-11 mm. longis; antheris coeruleis, 2.2 mm. longis; achaeniis nigris, rugulosis scabridulisque uninervatis, angustè ellipticis, 3.8-4.4 mm. longis, 1-1.4 mm. latis, rostro filiformi, 1.8-2.2 mm. longo; pappi setis interioribus 5-6 mm. longis, ad basim luteis, superne albidis, exterioribus brevissimis, unicellulatis.

TROPICAL AFRICA : Belgian Congo and Nyasaland. Type specimen in University of California Herbarium (n° 544659), environs d'Élisabethville, District Katanga, Belgian Congo, *Quarré* 4683; same locality, *Quarré* 4685 (Ex Herb. Hort. Bruxellensis).

Seedlings from the type were grown in 1936 (Univ. Calif. Hort. Genet. n° 335).

Another specimen in Herb. Mus. Palat. Vindob. (Vienna) from Nyassa Hochland-Station Kyimbila, *Stolz* 599 is undoubtedly the same species. Both specimens were originally identified as *Lactuca capensis* Thunb.

Observation. — *L. leptocephala* differs strikingly from most of the members of the *capensis-abyssinica* group in its annual habit and tall, slender stems. From *L. capensis*, furthermore, it is easily distinguished by its smaller, fewer flowered involucre, violet corollas, and smaller-achenes. It apparently approaches in habit most nearly *L. Vanderysti* De Wild., of Western Belgian Congo, which also has small involucre, but which, according to the description, differs from *L. leptocephala* in its obovate-lanceolate basal leaves, more numerous involucre bracts, and somewhat smaller achenes. *L. praecoë* R. E. Fries, of Northern Rhodesia resembles *L. leptocephala* in its few-flowered involucre, but has shorter, stouter stems from a perennial base, broader, involucre bracts, larger, apparently yellow flowers, and larger, completely glabrous achenes.

Lactuca kenyaensis Stebbins, sp. nov. (Fig. 19, c and d).

Herba perennis, radice crassa, 2-3 caules et innovationes foliosas emittente; caulibus 50-55 cm. altis, ramosis, glabris, ad basim 4-5 mm. crassis; foliis pubescentibus, praesertim ad venas; basilaribus 7.5-13 cm. longis lanceolatis, acutis, margine remote dentatis, pinnatifidis, lobis lanceolatis, 0.5-1.5 cm. longis; caulinis sessilibus, auriculatis, auriculis linearibus, attenuatis, 0.7-1.5 cm.

longis; foliis superioribus linearibus, gradatim reductis. *Inflorescentia* 10-25 cm. longa, anguste paniculata, capitulis ad ramulos sessilibus vel cum pedunculis 1-7 mm. longis; involucri ad anthesin 6.5-7.5 mm., ad fructificationem 10-12 mm. longis, squamis imbricatis, glaberrimis, viridibus vel lividis, saepe purpureo-maculatis; interioribus 5-6, 1.5-2 mm. latis, margine scariosis, exterioribus anguste deltoideis, 1.5-6 mm. longis; flosculis 5 pro capitula; corollis coeruleis (ex note collectoris), 9.5-10.5 mm. longis; ad apicem tubi pilosis, alibi glabris; antheris pallidis, 2.2 mm. longis; achaeniis nigris, rugulosis scabridulisque, uninervatis, ellipticis,

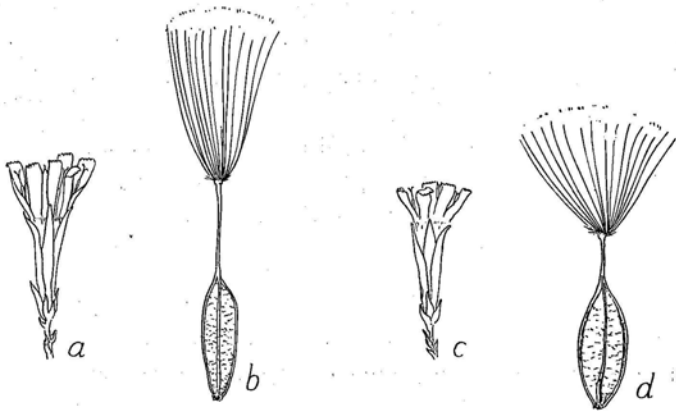


Fig. 19. — a-b *Lactuca leptocephala* Stebbins, from type; a flowering head ($\times 2$), b achene ($\times 4$). c-d *L. kenyaensis* Stebbins, from type; c flowering head ($\times 2$), d achene ($\times 4$).

4-4.2 mm. longis, 1.5-1.7 mm. latis, rostro filliformi, 1.4-1.7 mm. longo; pappi setis interioribus 4-4.5 mm. longis, niveis, exterioribus brevissimis, unicellulatis.

TROPICAL AFRICA : Kenya Colony. Common in grassland, Kabete, 6,000 feet (1,818 m.) July 24, 1935, *D. C. Edwards* 3107, type, in Herb. Univ. Calif.

Observation. — This species is closer in habit to *L. capensis* and *L. abyssinica* than the preceding, like which it differs from them in its smaller, fewer flowered heads and smaller achenes. Aside from its perennial habit, it differs from *L. leptocephala* in that the heads are usually 5- rather than 6-flowered, the flowers are apparently blue rather than violet, the anther tube is pale, the achenes are somewhat broader and shorter-beaked, and the pappus