

A new species of *Launaea* (*Compositae*) from Oman

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Launaea castanosperma F. G. Davies sp. nov. habitu specierum virgatarum complurium sed ab iis acheniis exterioribus trichomatibus castaneis dense vestitis distinguenda. Typus: Oman, Dhofar, *Bent* 233 (holotypus K).

Herba (? vel suffrutex) glabra, perennis, usque 50 cm alta, e radice palari exorta. *Caulis* inferne induratus, reliquiis foliorum instructus, superne et ad bases ramorum majorum rosulas foliorum ferens. Caules elati ramosi, glauci, subtiliter striati, foliis minutis vestiti. *Folia rosularum* sessilia, semi-amplectentia vel leviter sagittata, ambitu obovato-spathulata, lyrato-lobata (non profunde), obtusa, 30–60 × 16–26 mm, margine valde serratula, dentibus varie 0·1–0·5 mm longis albo-cartilagineis, glauca, coriacea (in sicco), nervis lateralibus obscuris. *Folia caulina* jam redacta, triangularia, sagittata, 2–3 mm longa. *Inflorescentiae* rami divergentes, capitulis remotis paucis, pedunculis 1–10 cm longis. *Capitulum* campanulatum, c. 25-flosculosum. *Involucrum* 15–17 mm longum; phylla pluriseriata, extima late ovata, patentia, in squamulas pedunculorum transeuntia; exteriora et intermedia ovata vel lanceolata, 3–8 mm longa, brunnea hebetata, anguste scarioso-marginata, costa carinata; interiora intermediis similia, 12–17 mm longa. *Achenia* dimorpha quadrata, quadripartita, 2·5 mm longa, 0·75 mm lata; exteriora trichomatibus longis unicellularibus castaneis dense vestita, interiora glabra, albida. *Pappus* 8 mm longus, dimorphus, niveus; setae crassae paucae, setae tenues permultae.

OMAN. Dhofar. Derbal, 1895, *Bent* 233 (K, holotype) & without precise locality, 1969, *Sir R. T. W. Fiennes* A20 (K).