

## 301. LEONTODON.

LEONTODON TARAXACUM. L.

*Dandelion.*

Outer scales of the calyx reflexed ; leaves runcinate, toothed, smooth.

The leaves of this very common plant are usually cited as examples of the runcinate form. The supposed resemblance to a lion's teeth will appear sufficiently obvious, to those who are fond of tracing etymologies, in any of its names *leontodon*, *dens leonis*, *dent de lion*, *dandelion*. The stalks or scapes are simple, hollow, smooth, and round. Flowers single, of a bright yellow. Calyx leaves entire, the outermost bent backwards. Florets ligulate, numerous. Down of the seeds on a pedicel.—Perennial.

## 302. PRENANTHES.

PRENANTHES ALBA. L.

*White flowering Prenanthes.*

Calyxes many flowered ; leaves angular-hastate, toothed ; flowers nodding ; racemes paniced. *Willd.*

A tall, smooth, lactescent plant, flowering in August and September. The large, radical leaves are conspicuous much earlier in the season. They are more or less triangular or halberd shaped, and lobed or toothed. The leaves of the stem are more regularly ovate and toothed, the upper ones lanceolate. The stem is commonly of a dark reddish colour, three or four feet high. Flowers paniced, drooping ; calyx white, containing ten or a dozen florets, surrounded with a dull reddish down.—Woods, low land, &c.—Perennial.—The root is intensely bitter.

*Variety*  $\beta$ . *nana*. From four to fifteen inches high. Leaves successively three parted, hastate, ovate and lanceolate ; in the smallest plants all simple. Racemes paniced or simple. Calyx ten or twelve flowered.—On the upper region of the White mountains.—August. Mr. Little.

No genus is more prone to vary than this. It is highly probable that many of the species described by Pursh are only varieties.