

Scapes 1-flowered; leaves runcinate.

SPECIES. 1. L. *Taraxacum*. Naturalized; introduced.—

A genus of 5 species, indigenous to Europe.

## 528. PRENANTHES. L.

*Flosculi* definite, 5 to 20. *Calix* caliculate.  
*Receptacle* naked. *Pappus* simple, sessile.

A polymorphous, but natural genus, principally herbaceous, rarely shrubby, and 1 species spinescent; leaves for the most part angularly dentate, pinnatifid, or runcinate, rarely minute and subulate; flowers often paniculate, conglomerate, subcorymbose or solitary and terminal, purplish, white, ochroleucous, or rarely yellow. Calix 4, 5; 8, or 12-parted, squamose at the base. Pappus somewhat scabrous.

SPECIES. 1. *P. altissima*. 2. *cordata*. 3. *virgata*. *P. rubicunda*. Willd. 4. *simplex*. PH. 5. *crepidinea*. 6. *alba*. 7. *Serpentaria*. PH. Scarcely distinct enough from *P. alba*. 8. *racemosa*. 9. *illinoensis*.

10. *juncea*. PH. Dwarf and nearly leafless; stem numerously and dichotomously branched, grooved; leaves subulate and sheathing, very short, branchlets subfastigate, 1-flowered; calix 5-cleft, 5 to 7-flowered. HAB. from the river Platte to the Mountains, in the alluvial sand-hills of the Missouri. Flowering in May. Flowers rosaceous. OBS. Root tuberous and brittle, very deep and creeping, charged with an abundant milky sap. Stems about 12 inches high, appearing nearly leafless. Radical leaves none, those of the stem from 1 to 10 lines long and pungently acute.

11. \* *aphylla*. Dwarf and almost leafless; stem nearly simple, sparingly and virgately branched, grooved; radical leaves narrow linear, entire, cauline minute, subulate, and very remote; branches 1-flowered, elongated; calix 8-parted 10 to 12-flowered. HAB. Near St. Mary's in West Florida.—Dr. Baldwyn. OBS. Root perennial. Stem smooth, about 12 inches high, with only 2 or 3 remarkably naked virgate branches; leaves scarcely visible; flowers large, and pale rose-colour. Nearly allied to the preceding.

A genus of near 40 species scattered over both hemispheres; Japan affords 10 species, India 4, Europe and the Levant 9, Siberia 2, Caraccas 1, and 1 in the island of Teneriffe, a few others are of uncertain locality.—Several of the North American species, in common with other genera of the CICHORACEÆ, afford on incision an abundant milky fluid, well ascertained to be Opium in several spe-

cies of *Lactuca* and *Leontodon*, to this substance must be attributed the real or pretended efficacy of these plants against the bites of poisonous reptiles. From this circumstance arose the name of SCORZONERA, a genus sufficiently abundant in the South of Europe, the name of which is nothing more than a corruption of the Spanish word *escorzo*, a viper, the plants of this genus having been popularly administered as remedies for the bite of that animal, hence it is called also "Viper's-grass."

### 529. LACTUCA. L. (Lettuce.)

*Calix* imbricated, cylindric, margin (of the segments) membranaceous. *Receptacle* naked, *Pappus* simple, stipitate. *Seed* even.

Vegetation partly similar to that of *Sonchus*. Flowers yellow, more rarely blue.

SPECIES. 1. *L. elongata*. *L. longifolia?* Mich. 2. *\*hirsuta*. Muhl. Catal. Lower part of the stem and leaves hirsutely pilose, radical ones lyrate, segments truncate, subdentate, the upper leaves partly runcinate-pinnatifid; flowers racemose, squamæ subulate. HAB. In Pennsylvania. Pappus stipitate v. s. In Herb. Muhl. 3. *graminifolia*.

4. *\*integrifolia*. Leaves subamplexicaule, ovate-oblong, all entire, smooth; panicle few-flowered, branchlets squamose; flowers large and blue. *L. oblongifolia*. T. N. in Fras. Catal. *Sonchus pulchellus*. PH. 2. p. 502. HAB. On the grassy alluvial soils of the Missouri and the lesser streams, from the Arikarees to the Mountains. Allied to *Sonchus sibiricus*, but the pappus is stipitate. OBS. Root perennial. Stem 1 and a half, to 2 feet high, dividing irregularly above into a few-flowered, fastigate panicle. Leaves somewhat glaucous, very entire below, of an irregular, elongated oblong form, stem leaves sometimes with a single setaceous tooth at the base. Flowers about the size, and nearly the colour, of those of *Cichorium Intybus*. Calix cylindric. Flowering in August and September.

Excepting the above, almost exclusively an European genus containing 22 species. Scarcely a natural group, a mere section of *Sonchus*? The native country of the common Salad Lettuce (*L. sativa*) can now no longer be ascertained.

### 530. SONCHUS. L. (Sow-Thistle.)

*Calix* imbricated, ventricose. *Receptacle* naked. *Pappus* pilose, sessile.