

logical nature of the differences, combined with the well marked segregation in range, I think it proper to consider the two units as subspecies.

PRENANTHES RACEMOSA Michx. subsp. **racemosa** Cronquist, nom. nov. *Prenanthes racemosa* Michx. Fl. Bor. Am. **2**: 83. 1803, sens. strict.

PRENANTHES RACEMOSA Michx. subsp. **multiflora** Cronquist, subsp. nov. A subsp. *racemosa* differt involucri bracteis 10–14 (saepius 13), floribus 17–26.

TYPE: *Macoun & Herriot 43020*, Beaver Hill Lake, Alberta, August 23, 1906. Representative specimens: WYOMING: *Nelson 8923*. COLORADO: *Clements 368*. MONTANA: *Chickering s. n.* in 1874. SASKATCHEWAN: *Bourgeau s. n.* in 1857–8. MANITOBA: *Macoun 22799*. SOUTH DAKOTA: *Rydberg 842*. MINNESOTA: *Holzinger s. n.* at Winona in 1905. IOWA: *Hayden, Strunk & Tolstead s. n.* in 1933. ILLINOIS: *Mead s. n.* in 1846. MICHIGAN: *Williamson 2267*, from Isle Royale. QUEBEC: *Victorin 15311*.

The great intraspecific variation in the form and degree of cutting of the leaves of the *Cichorieae* in general and *Lactuca* in particular is well known. *Lactuca Serriola* L., *L. canadensis* L., *L. pulchella* (Pursh) DC., and *L. spicata* (Lam.) Hitchc., for example, are among the species now generally conceded to include forms with pinnatifid leaves and forms with the leaves entire or merely toothed. The varying forms of *L. canadensis* appear in the current manuals as distinct species, but were subsequently reduced to varietal status by Wiegand (RHODORA **22**: 9–11. 1920), whose taxonomic conclusions have been adopted by Fernald (RHODORA **40**: 480, 481. 1938) and others.

Contrariwise, it has become customary to distinguish as separate species *L. floridana* (L.) Gaertn., with pinnatifid leaves, and *L. villosa* Jacq., with merely toothed leaves. To bolster this distinction, it has been alleged that the achene of *L. floridana* has a short stout beak, while that of *L. villosa* is beakless. The fact is, however, that the achenes vary from merely tapering and beakless to distinctly short-beaked, with all intermediate conditions and without any evident correlation with leaf-outline.

Torrey and Gray were well aware of this variation in the achene. They described *L. floridana* (under the name *Mulgedium floridanum*) as having the "achaenia with a short beak", while its un-named var. γ differed only in having its "achaenia very obscurely rostrate". *L. villosa* (under the name *Mulgedium*

acuminatum) was said by them to have the "achaenia slightly rostrate". Their further note under *Mulgedium acuminatum*, "Heads small, nearly as the following species; from which the undivided leaves chiefly distinguish it", is quite in accord with my own observations.

More recently, Deam has made the following comment under *L. floridana* in his Flora of Indiana; "Our manuals describe it as having a short, narrow beak. All of my specimens are beakless, at least none with a beak longer than 0.3 mm."

I conclude that the variation from beakless to shortly stout-beaked achenes is without taxonomic significance in this instance.

The use of the epithet *villosa* for the plant with merely toothed leaves might suggest that it is more hairy than *L. floridana*, but the suggestion is not borne out by the specimens. It is worthy of note that when Asa Gray transferred *Sonchus acuminatus* Willd. (1803) to *Lactuca* (Syn. Fl. 1²: 443. 1884), he listed the earlier *L. villosa* Jacq. as a synonym, with the note, "but the plant mostly glabrous or nearly so."

The remaining distinction between *Lactuca floridana* and *L. villosa*, that of the leaves, has been conceded to be not entirely constant, as will be noted by reading the descriptions in the current edition of either Gray's Manual or Britton and Brown's Illustrated Flora. My observations of the leaves are in general agreement with those descriptions. It is possible to refer most of the specimens to one entity or the other by the nature of the leaves, but intermediate specimens exist, and the plants look very much alike in other respects. The range of *L. villosa* is included within that of *L. floridana*, but is apparently less extensive.

The foregoing considerations necessitate the reduction of *Lactuca villosa* to varietal status under *L. floridana*, thus bringing the treatment of these two entities into conformity with that generally used elsewhere in the genus.

LACTUCA FLORIDANA (L.) Gaertn. var. **floridana**, nom. nov. *L. floridana* (L.) Gaertn. Fruct. 2: 362. 1791, sens strict. *Sonchus floridanus* L. Sp. Pl. 794. 1753.

LACTUCA FLORIDANA (L.) Gaertn. var. **villosa** (Jacq.) Cronquist, comb. nov. *L. villosa* Jacq. Hort. Schoen. 3: 62, pl. 367. 1798.

Agoseris gracilens (Gray) Kuntze was originally described by Asa Gray (under the name *Troximon gracilens*) as differing from