

high-alpine Himalayan endemic genus *Sorozeris*, but the link is by no means a close one and it remains as an isolated and specialized plant with no close affinities; in addition it has (Hedberg, personal communication) the very low somatic chromosome number 4.

7. **Prenanthes** L., Sp. Pl.: 797 (1753); Gen. Pl., ed. 5: 349 (1754).

Unrepresented in East Tropical Africa, but because in tropical Africa there is an undescribed species which has been confused with certain *Launaea* species, and because there are interesting new records worthy of note, a synopsis of the tropical African species of this mainly Asiatic and North American genus is here given.

Plant scandent, with at least some leaves peltate 1. **subpeltata**

Plant not scandent; leaves never peltate:

Herb with slender inflorescence-branches; florets 5-6 per capitulum

2. **amabilis**

Subshrub with stiff, divaricate inflorescence-branches; florets about 10 per capitulum 3. **somaliensis**

1. **P. subpeltata** Stebbins in Bull. Jard. Bot. Brux. 14: 340 (1937). Type: Congo, *Lebrun* 4959 (BR, holotype!).

CONGO. Mt. Karisimbi, *Lebrun* 4959.

ETHIOPIA. W. Bale, above Fatcha, 6° 45' N., 39° 15' E., *Mooney* 8499.

NOTE. In view of the remarks of Stebbins (*op. cit.*: 391) on the relict nature of this species, the recent find in the southern Ethiopian mountains is of considerable interest, the species hitherto having been thought confined to the Virunga Mountains.

2. **P. amabilis** Balf.f. in Proc. Roy. Soc. Edinb. 11: 842 (1882); in Trans. Roy. Soc. Edinb. 31: 145, t. 43 (1888); & in Forbes, Nat. Hist. Sokotra: 482 (1903). Type: Socotra, *Balfour, Cockleburn & Scott* 311 (E, holotype; K, isotype!).

SOCOTRA. SW. of Galonsir, *Balfour, Cockleburn & Scott* 311.

3. **Prenanthes somaliensis** C. Jeffrey, sp. nov. *P. amabili* Balf.f. valde affinis, a qua habitu suffruticoso et capitulis 10- non 5-6-floris differt. (Fig. 1).

Fruticulus divaricato-ramosus 10-40 cm. altus. *Ramuli* superiores primo floriferi demum spinescentes virides efoliati pseudodichotomo-ramosi, inferiores vetustiores griseo-corticati lignosi folia 2-5-fasciculata in ramis lateralibus brevissimis ferentes. *Folia* carnosa, glabra, ambitu elliptica, 3-6.5 cm. longa 1.4-3.5 cm. lata, basi angustata et in axillis lanato-villosa, margine pinnato-lobata, lobis deltoideo-lanceolatis acutis leviter recurvatis. *Capitula* ad apices ramulorum solitaria erecta circa 10-flora, involucrio obconico ad anthesin 6-8 mm. longo 3-3.5 mm. lato. *Phyllaria* 3-seriata imbricata interiora circa 8 lanceolata, exteriora multo breviora ovato-acuminata, omnia purpurea et extra glanduloso-puberula. *Flosculi* cyani, rosei vel purpurei omnes fertiles hermaphroditi, corolla circa 9 mm. longa, ligula 2 mm. lata apice 5-dentata, tubo extra leviter puberulo, ramis styli

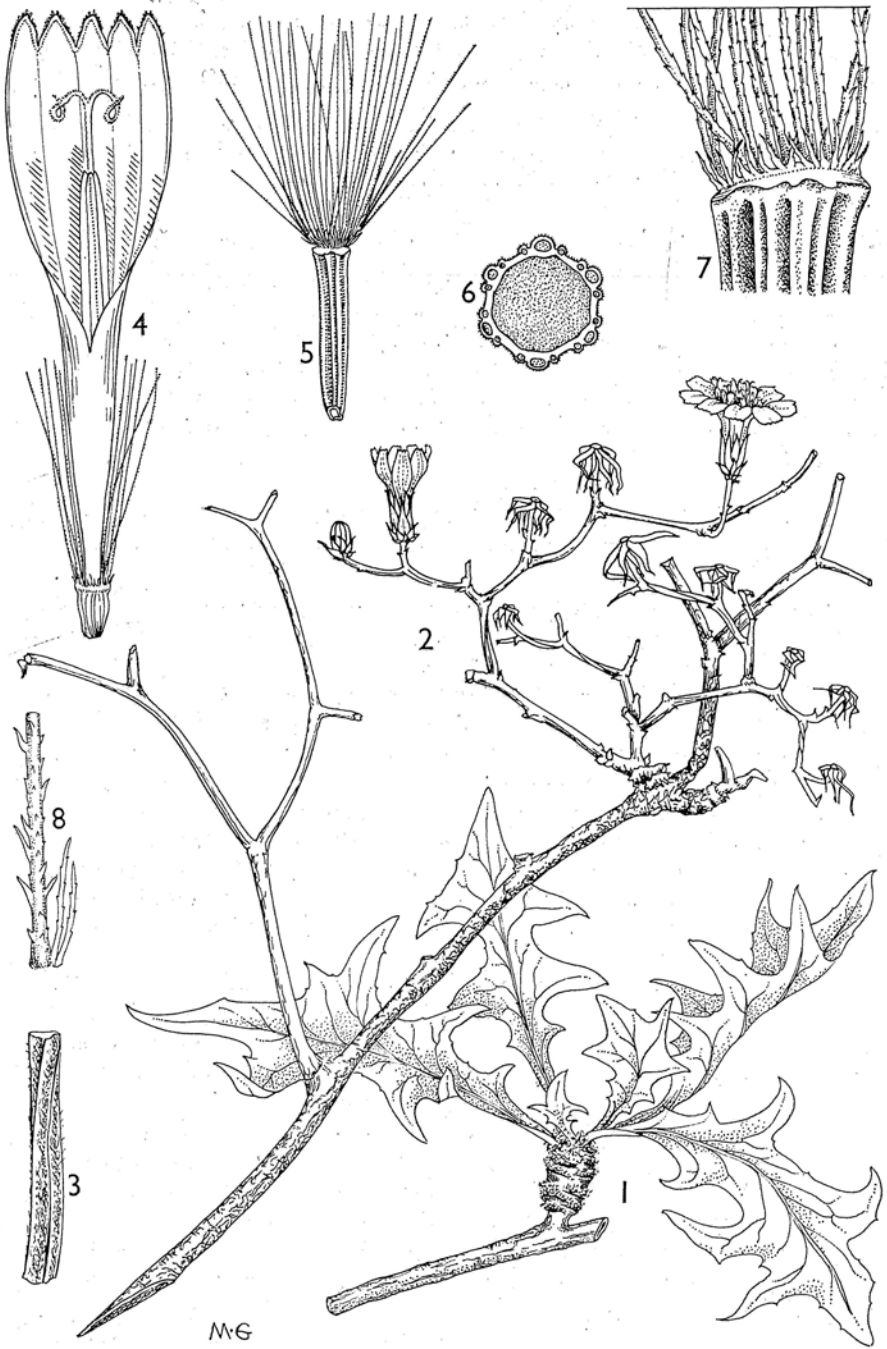


FIG. 1. *Prenanthes somaliensis*. 1, leafy branch, $\times 1$; 2, inflorescence, $\times 1$; 3, part of inflorescence stem, $\times 2$; 4, floret, part of pappus removed, $\times 6$; 5, achene and pappus, $\times 6$; 6, achene, transverse section, $\times 20$; 7, detail of pappus-base, $\times 20$; 8, pappus setae, $\times 40$. 1, 3-8 from Bally 11036, 2 from Collenette 269.

tenuibus circa 1.3 mm. longis. *Achenia* cylindrico-obconica obtuse 6-costata apice truncata 2.2 mm. longa 0.7 mm. lata pappo sordido setoso 4-5 mm. longo coronata, setae pappi rigidae serrulatae 25-30, exterioribus brevioribus.

SOMALIA. Eastern Al Madu Range, Agasur, *Bally* 11036; Al Hills, Sugli, 10° 58' N., 48° 53' E., *Collenette* 269 (K, holotype!); near Erigavo, *Glover & Gilliland* 655; E. side Surud, Burdet, *Newbould* 738.

8. *Lactuca L.*, Sp. Pl.: 795 (1753); Gen. Pl., ed. 5: 348 (1754).

This genus has not been revised in its entirety for tropical Africa since Oliver & Hiern's (1877) account of the genus in the 'Flora of Tropical Africa'. Consequently, it has needed thorough revision, the results of which are given here; the scandent species though treated in detail by Stebbins (1937) have been included for the sake of completeness, but apart from some interesting new records his treatment of the group has been little modified.

KEY TO THE TROPICAL AFRICAN SPECIES OF *LACTUCA*

Plants not scandent nor scrambling, achenes grey-brown, red-brown, or black:

Capitula arranged in a tight cushion immediately above the densely woolly apex of the taproot 2. ***lasiorhiza***

Capitula not as above, on evident stems:

Heads large, the involucre at times of flowering at least 14 mm. long and 5 mm. across:

Leaves pinnately lobed, with narrow segments . . . 17. ***imbricata***

Leaves broadly lobed or unlobed:

Plants scapigerous; achenes not beaked (Fig. 2/1) . . . 1. ***tysonii***

Plants foliose or precocious; achenes distinctly beaked:

Midribs of leaves ciliate beneath 19. ***petrensis***

Midribs glabrous beneath 18. ***cubanguensis***

Heads small, the involucre at time of flowering not exceeding 13 mm. long and 5 mm. across:

Branches decumbent; achenes fusiform, not more than 0.5 mm. broad, long-beaked (Fig. 3/23) (plant confined to Socotra)

23. ***rhynchocarpa***

Branches ± erect; achenes not as above, 0.7-2.5 mm. broad:

Achenes grey-brown, small (up to 1 mm. broad), with narrow equal facial ribs and a slender concolourous beak (Fig. 3/24):

Stem leaves lanceolate 24. ***dregeana***

Stem leaves oblong to orbicular, sometimes pinnatifid:

Inflorescence corymbose; stem leaves ovate to orbicular; plant not prickly (cultivated) 26. ***sativa***

Inflorescence a pyramidal panicle; stem leaves oblong or pinnatifid; plant often prickly on stems and leaf midribs beneath 25. ***serriola***

Achenes red-brown to black, rarely less than 1 mm. broad, with 1-3 ± rounded ribs on each face and a short stout to rather long and slender paler-coloured beak:

The achenes fusiform-subcylindrical, not conspicuously compressed, with 3 ribs on each face (cf. Fig. 2/4-11):