

## NEW DESCRIPTIONS

### A NEW SPECIES OF *SONCHUS* L. (ASTERACEAE) FROM SOUTH INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With seven text-figures)

#### *Sonchus jainii* sp. nov.

Herbae erectae, 30-75 cm altae, glabrae; radices at caules laticibus lacteis. Folia 2-16 x 1.0-4.5 cm, spiralia, approximata in parte inferiore, remota in parte superiore; folia infera anguste oblonga, sinuate lobata vel pinnatifida segmentis ovato-acutis vel oblongo-obtusis, interdum simplicia, glabra, recurvata secus margines, ad apices acuta, ad bases auriculata; folia supera simplicia, ovato-lanceolata, subintegra, recurvata secus margines, glabra, ad apices acuta vel acuminata, ad bases amplexicaulia auriculis acutis. Inflorescentia terminalis capitulis racemose fasciculata vel paniculata. Capitula  $\pm$  1.7-2.0 cm longa, 1.5-2.0 cm diametris, lutea, campanulata, homogama floribus totis ligulatis, pedunculata; torus parum depressum. Bractee involucri 6-15 x 2.5-4.0 mm, multiseriatae, coriaceae, glabrae praeter apicem aliquot pilis, obtuse acuminatae; bractee involucri externae gradatim breviores, ovatae vel ovate-lanceolatae; bractee involucri interiores longiores, oblongo-lanceolatae. Flores lutei, hermaphroditi. Tubus corollae 6-7 mm longus, linearis, fauce extra sparsim pubescenti; limbus 6-7 x 2 mm, anguste oblongus, apice 5-dentato, dentes  $\pm$  0.5 x 0.3 mm. Antherae  $\pm$  2.5 mm longae, lineari-

oblongae, connatae; fila  $\pm$  1 mm longa, libra, glabra. Ovarium  $\pm$  1.5 x 0.9 mm, lineari-oblongum, costatum extremis umbabus truncatis, glabrum; stylus  $\pm$  1 cm longus, linearis, glaber praeter prope apicem; stigma bifidus, brachia  $\pm$  1.7 mm longa simplicia. Pappus 8-10 mm longus, candidus, leviter heteromorphus pilis crassis et subtiliter capillaceis. Achenia  $\pm$  5 x 1 mm, brunnea, lineari-oblonga, compressa, valde 4-costata nervis duabus longitudinalibus intermediis inconspicuis, levia, glabra. (Figs. 1-7).

Holotypus *Chandrabose* 69015 (CAL) et isotypi *Chandrabose* 69015 (MH. Acc. Nos. 117706, 117707, 117708, 117709, 117710, 117711) lecti apud Konalar, Anamalai, Dist. Coimbatore in statu Tamil Nadu die 18-11-1980.

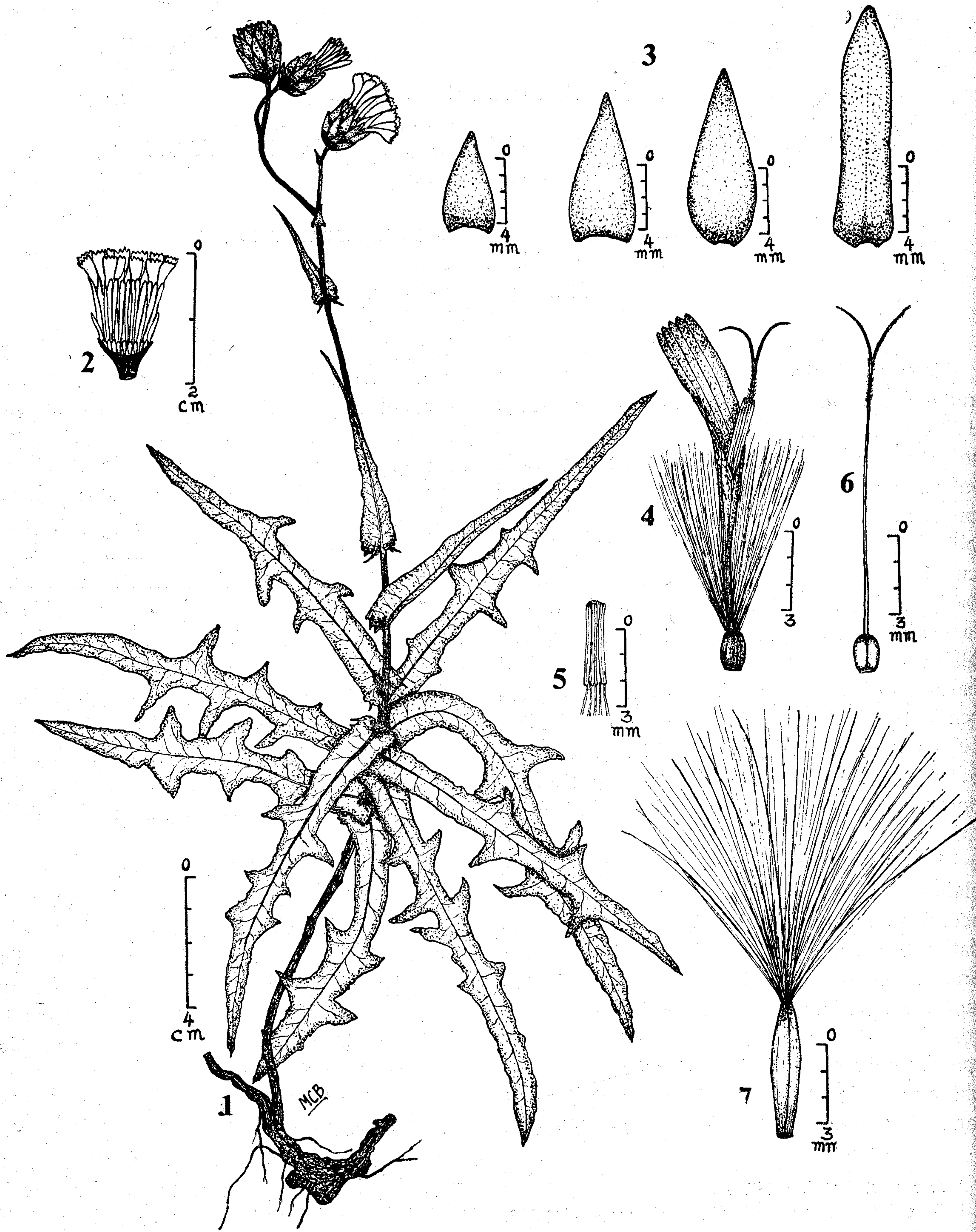
#### *Sonchus jainii* sp. nov.

Erect herbs 30-75 cm high, glabrous; roots and stems with milky latex. Leaves 2-16 x 1-4.5 cm, in spirals, close in the lower portion, distant above; lower ones narrowly oblong, sinuately lobed or pinnatifid with ovate-acute or oblong-obtuse segments, sometimes simple, recurved along the margins, glabrous, acute at apex, auricled at base; upper ones simple, ovate-lanceolate, subentire, recurved along the margins, glabrous, acute or acuminate at apex, amplexicaul at base with acute auricles. Heads  $\pm$  1.7-2 cm long, 1.5-2 cm across, yellow,

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Figs. 1-7: *Sonchus jainii* sp. nov.  
 1. Plant. 2. L. S. of Head. 3. Involucral bracts. 4. Ligulate flower. 5. Androecium.  
 6. Gynoecium. 7. Achenes with pappus hairs.



campanulate, homogamous with all ligulate flowers, pedunculate, in terminal fascicled racemes or panicles; torus slightly depressed. Involucral bracts 6-15 x 2.5-4 mm, many-seriate, coriaceous, glabrous excepting a few hairs at the tip, obtusely acuminate; outer ones gradually shorter, ovate or ovate-lanceolate; inner ones longer, oblong-lanceolate. Flowers yellow, bisexual. Corolla tube 6-7 mm long, linear, sparsely pubescent at throat without; limb 6-7 x 2 mm, narrowly oblong, 5-toothed at apex, teeth  $\pm 0.5 \times 0.3$  mm. Anthers  $\pm 2.5$  mm long, linear-oblong, connate; filaments  $\pm 1$  mm long, free, glabrous. Ovary  $\pm 1.5 \times 0.9$  mm, linear-oblong, ribbed, truncate at both ends, glabrous; style  $\pm 1$  cm long, linear, glabrous except near the tip; stigma bifid, arms  $\pm 1.7$  mm long, simple. Pappus 8-10 mm long, dull-white, smooth, faintly heteromorphic with thick and finer capillaceous hairs. Achenes  $\pm 5 \times 1$  mm, brown, linear-oblong, compressed, strongly 4-ribbed with 2 faint longitudinal nerves in between, smooth, glabrous. (Figs. 1-7).

The holotype *Chandrabose* 69015 (CAL) and isotypes *Chandrabose* 69015 (MH. Acc. Nos. 117706, 117707, 117708, 117709, 117710, 117711) were collected in Konalar, Anamalai, Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu on 18-11-1980.

This interesting taxon obviously represents a member of the tribe Lactuceae (Syn.: Cichorieae), but we found it difficult to place our new species in the appropriate genus, as this perennial species exhibits: achenes longer, narrowed at both ends; and pappus of finer capillaceous smooth hairs intermixed with thick smooth hairs. F. G. Davies after examining the specimen remarked, "..... It does seem to be near *Sonchus*, and at present I would not be certain whether it belongs in this genus or not. There are some rather odd perennial *Sonchus* species and it may be a new one of these". We, however, treat it as a species of *Sonchus* L. as suggested by F. G. Davies of the Kew Herbarium.

This species grows on the grassy slopes at an altitude of about 2050 m. This species is named in honour of Dr. S. K. Jain, Director, Botanical Survey of India, Howrah for his contributions to the taxonomy of Indian plants.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### DESCRIPTION OF TWO NEW SPECIES AND ONE NEW RECORD OF CRYPTOSTIGMATID MITES (ACARI: ORIBATEI) FROM MAHARASHTRA, INDIA<sup>1</sup>

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(With four text-figures)

#### INTRODUCTION

During the course of studies on the oribatid mite fauna of Maharashtra two new species

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