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A NEW SPECIES OF *LACTUCA* (ASTERACEAE) FROM HIMACHAL PRADESH, INDIA

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During the course of a revisionary study on the subtribe *Lactuceae* in India, the authors encountered some specimens which showed affinities with *Lactuca rapunculoides* Clarke in the general habit of plant, shape of upper and lower leaves, in the drooping nature of the inflorescence and in having outer involucral bracts much shorter than the inner. Critical examination of these specimens both at BSD and DD, particularly the achene character and the involucre, proved that these specimens belong to a new species, which is described here.

Lactuca lahulensis Mamgain et R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.* Proxime affinis *L. rapunculoides* Clarke, sed different acheniis brevioribus, abrupte angustalis ad rostrum parvum pallidum, bracteis involucralibus perbrevioribus, glabris paucisetulosisve.

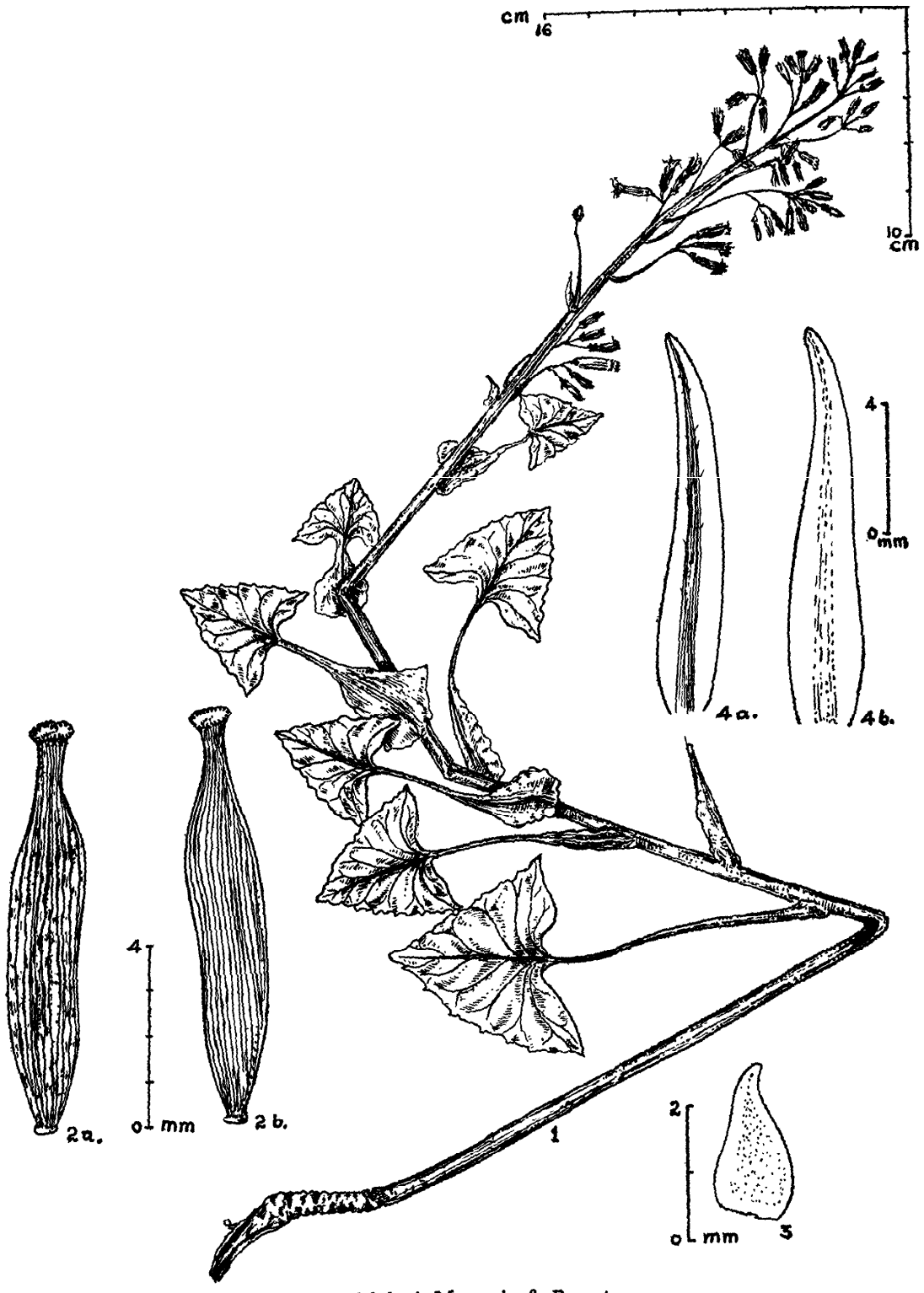
Herbae perennes. Ceulis *ca* 50-80 cm altus, erectus, glaber, eramosus vel raro sursum paniculatim ramosus. Folia *ca* 4-7 × 3-7 cm, folia superiora mediana tenuiter membranacea, petiolis longis, late alatis, ad basin sagittatis rotundatisve, auriculatis, lamina late cordata vel deltoidea, varie dentata, folia suprema subsessilia, ovata vel lanceolata. Inflorescentia terminalis, paniculata. Capitula *ca* 14-16 × 2.5-3.0 mm in ramis subpaniculatis, plusminusve fasciculata, cernua, 3-4-folora, pedunculus parvus, gracilis, glaber, nutans ; flosculi ligulati, ligula alba vel purpurascens. Bracteae involucrales exteriores *ca* 2.0-2.5 × 0.5-1.0 mm, ovatae, glabrae, bracteae involucrales interiores 5, aequales, *ca* 12-12.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm anguste lineari-lanceolatae, glabrae vel setis paucis, minutis, membranaceae. Achenium *ca* 7-7.5 mm longum, abrupte angustatum ad rostrum parvum pallidum, subcylindricum, 8-9-costatum in quoque superficie, costa mediana conspicua, prominens, luteo-brunnea, pubescens, pappo parum longior. Pappus 5 mm, pallide albus.

Holotypes lectus : INDIA : Himachal Pradesh : Lahul-Kyelong, U. C. Bhattacharyya 40772 et positus in CAL.

Lactuca lahulensis Mamgain & R. R. Rao, *sp. nov.*

Perennial herbs. Stem *ca* 50-80 cm high, erect, glabrous, unbranched or rarely paniculately branched above. Leaves *ca* 4-7 × 3-7 cm, upper middle leaves finely membranous with long and broadly winged petioles, sagittate or rounded at base, auricled, lamina broadly cordate or deltoid, variously toothed, uppermost leaves subsessile, ovate or lanceolate. Inflorescence terminal panicles. Heads *ca* 14-16 × 2.5-3.0 mm, on subpaniculate branches, more or less clustered, drooping, 3-4 flowered ; peduncle small, slender, glabrous, nodding ; florets all ligulate ; ligule white or purplish. Outer involucral bracts *ca* 2.0-2.5 × 0.5-1.0 mm, ovate, glabrous ; inner involucral bracts 5, equal *ca* 12-12.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm, narrowly linear lanceolate, glabrous or with few minute bristles, mem-

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Lactuca lahulensis Mamgain & Rao *sp. nov.*

Figs. 1-4(a-b) : 1. Habit. 2*a*. Achene (Ventral side). 2*b*. Achene (Dorsal side). 3. Outer involucral bract 4(*a-b*). Inner involucral bracts.

branous. Achene *ca* 7-7.5 mm long, abruptly narrowed to a small pale beak, subcylindric, 8-9-ribbed on each face, median rib conspicuous, raised, yellowish-brown, downy, slightly longer than pappus. Pappus 5 mm, pale white.

Flrs. & Frts. : August.

Specimen studied : Holotype : INDIA : Himachal Pradesh, Lahul-Kyelang (3300) *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 40772 (CAL). Isotype : *U. C. Bhattacharyya* 40772 (BSD).

Remarks : Erect, tall herb on north facing slope. Florets white or purple. This species very closely resembles *L. rapunculoides* Clarke, but differs as follows :

A. Achene 10-12 mm long, gradually narrowed at both ends, with a longer and dark brown beak : outer involucral bracts 3-4 mm long ; inner 15-18 mm long with much scattered bristles, particularly at the tip. *L. rapunculoides*

B. Achene 7-7.5 mm long, abruptly narrowed to a small pale beak ; outer involucral bracts 2-2.5 mm long, inner 12-15 mm long, glabrous or with few minute bristles. *L. lahulensis*

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