



LACTUCA SERRIOLA L.(ASTERACEAE):AN EXTENDED DISTRIBUTION TO THE STATES OF RAJASTHAN

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The species *Lactuca serriola* L. of family Asteraceae, so far has not been reported from Rajasthan. This species was first time collected from Bulbula Mahadev village situated in Sitamata wildlife sanctuary of district Pratapgarh, Rajasthan. The detailed description, upto- date nomenclature, phenology, ecological notes and photographs of this species have been presented.

Key words: *Lactuca serriola*, An extended distribution, Rajasthan

During botanical explorations in southern Rajasthan, the author collected some plant specimens from Sitamata wild life sanctuary (74°25' to 74°40' E longitude and 24°4' to 24°23' N Latitude) in Pratapgarh districts of Rajasthan. After a thorough survey of literature, critical examination and expert opinion from Botanical Survey of India, Arid Zone Regional Centre, Jodhpur, these specimens were determined as *Lactuca serriola* L., belonging to the family Asteraceae, a taxon not recorded by the earlier workers from Rajasthan (Bhandari 1987, Sharma and Tyagi 1979, Shetty and Pandey 1983, Singh 1983, Shetty and Singh 1991, Prasad *et al.* 1996, Sharma 2002, Tyagi and Aery 2007, Yadav and Meena 2011 and Meena 2014). The present paper provides description, phenology data and photographs of the species.

The genus *Lactuca* L. comprises about 150 species, cosmopolitan in distribution. 24 species are reported from India (Mamgainand Rao, 1995). In India the taxon was earlier reported from W. Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh (Mamgain and Rao, 1995). On the base of critical studies, of above relevant literature we have **confirmed** the specimens as *Lactuca serriola* L. Thus, present findings constitute a new record for Rajasthan. Hence, it's extended distribution in Rajasthan.

Lactuca serriola L., Cent. pl. 2 : 29. 1756 (Amen. acad. 4:328. 1759). *Lactuca scariola* L., Sp. Pl. ed. 2. 1119. 1963; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 3: 404. 1881.

DESCRIPTION

Herbs, upto 120cm tall, annual. Stem solitary, erect, unbranched, shining and prickly towards base. Leaves sessile, prickly on midrib and nerves beneath, oblong-ovate to narrowly elliptic, 6 - 14 × 1- 4 cm, entire,

or more rarely divided and leaf broadly linear, base auriculate claspings, margin spinulose; upper leaves stem-claspings with arrow-shaped base. Heads yellow, cylindrical, paniced with ascending, corymbose branches, 1 - 1.2 x 0.3 - 0.4 cm, erect, glabrous; peduncle white, erect, with many appressed green, cordate bracts. Outer involucre bracts oblong, somewhat triangular, 1.5-3.0 x 0.5-1.0 mm, unequal; inner or linear-lanceolate, 9 - 12 x 1 - 2 mm, ligules yellow. Achenes pale brown, oblanceolate, 3 - 8.5 mm long including beak, flattened, slightly thick towards margins, 6 - 8 ribbed, smooth. Pappus hairy, white, 4-5 mm, soft, simple. **Fig. 1 A-E.**

Flowering and Fruiting: April - June.

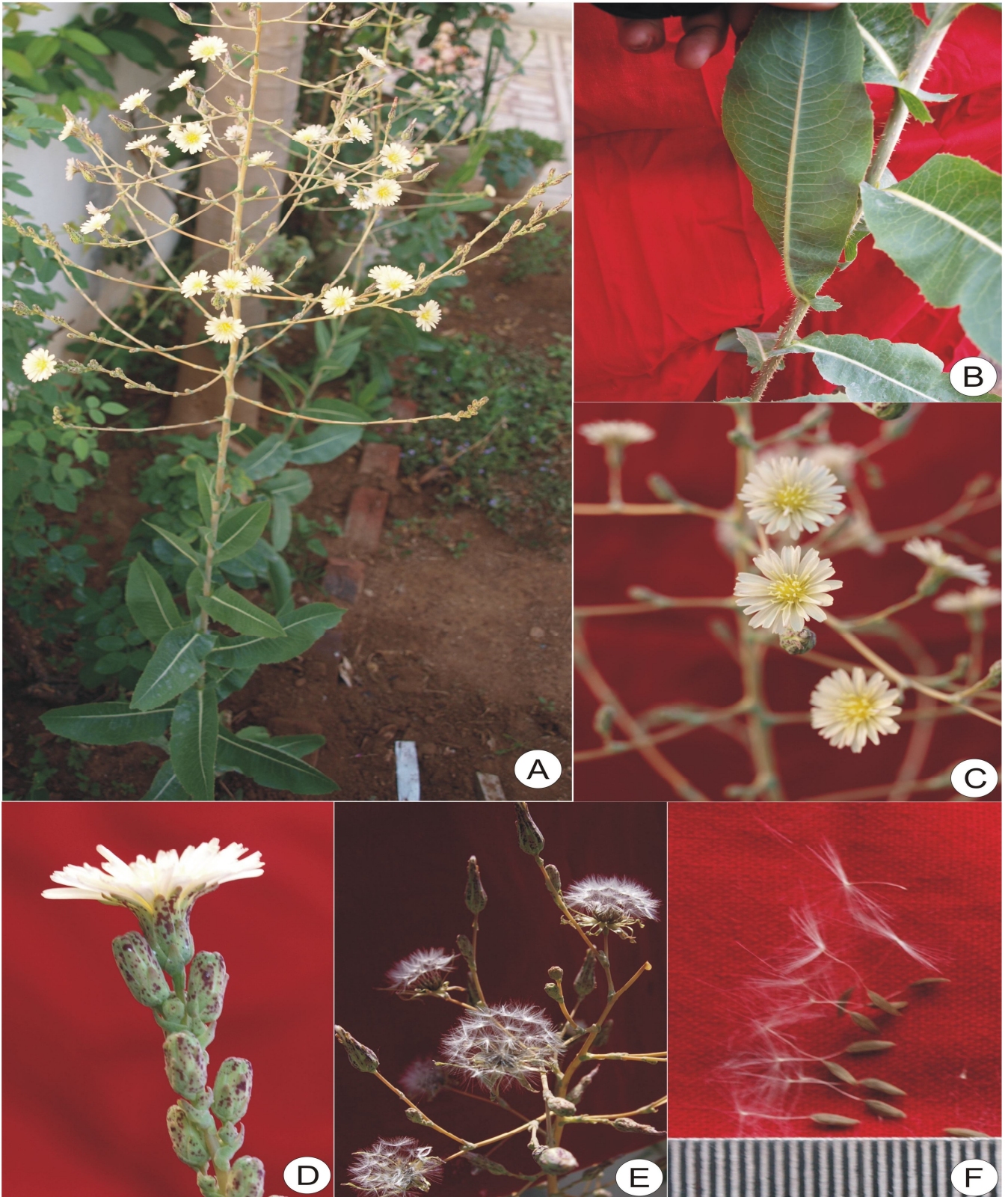
Ecological notes: Rare in moist wastelands, amidst grasses on exposed dry slopes.

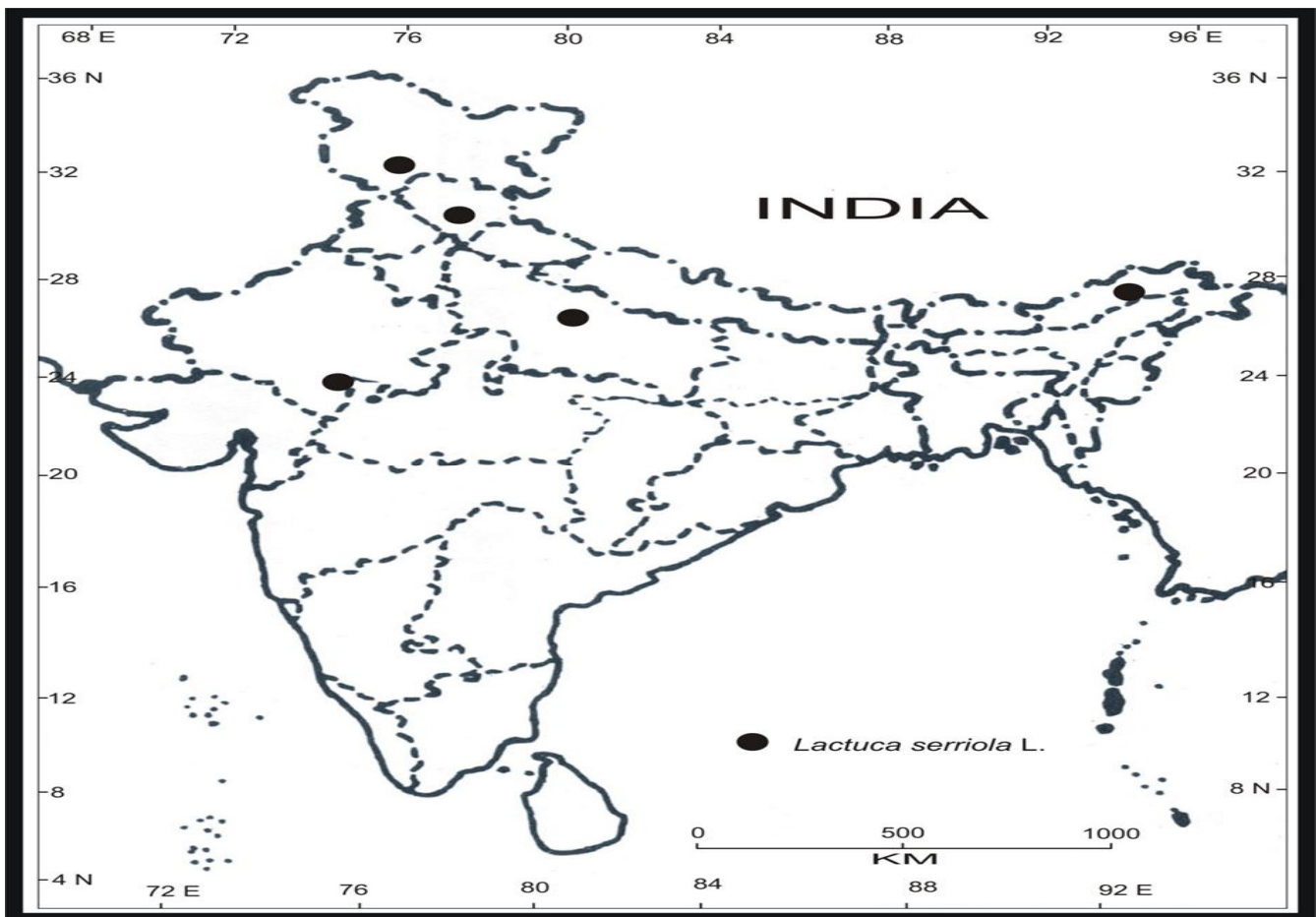
Specimens examined: India, Rajasthan, Pratap Garh district, Bulbula Mahadev village 08 April 13, Meena 1003; 17 May 2013. Pipalikhhera village, Meena 1074 (Herbarium, department of botany, M.L.V. Government College, Bhilwara).

Distribution: World: Africa, NE Asia, Australia, North America, Pacific islands (New Zealand), the Russian Far East, South America and India. India: W. Himalayas, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh (Map.1).

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Figure 1 (A-F) *Lautucaserriola* L. : A. Habit, B. Prickles on stem and lower midrib of leaves, C. Inflorescence, D. Inflorescence showing involucre bracts, E. Mature heads, F. Achenes with hairy





Map 1. Distribution of *Lactuca serriola* L. in India.

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