NOTE

Lactuca serriola (Asteraceae), a Newly Naturalized Plant in Taiwan

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ABSTRACT: A newly naturalized herb was recently recorded here. *Lactuca serriola* L. (Asteraceae) was found in the central part of western Taiwan and Penghu island, as an alien weed. This report gives taxonomic descriptions and illustrations. Photographs are also provided for identification.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, *Lactuca serriola*, Naturalized plant, Taiwan.

INTRODUCTION

The Asteraceae is one of the largest families of flowering plants and contains major globally naturalized flora. In recent years, many naturalized members of the Asteraceae have been recorded (Chung et al., 2008; Hsu et al., 2006; Jung et al., 2005, 2009; Tseng et al., 2008; Wang and Chen, 2006). *Lactuca* L. consists of about 100 species, found principally in the Mediterranean, Europe, and central and East Asia. In the *Flora of Taiwan* (Li, 1978) four species of *Lactuca* were recorded, but three of which were treated as *Pterocypsela* C. Shih and one was transferred to *Pareparenanthes* Chang ex C. Shih in the *Flora of China*, 2nd edition (Peng et al., 1998; Shih, 1988, 1997). Recently, in our botanical exploration, *Lactuca serriola* was collected in central Taiwan and Pengu (Island). It is commonly considered a weed of orchards, roadsides, and agronomic crops (Weaver et al., 2006).

TAXONOMIC TREATMENT

Lactuca serriola L., Cent. Pl. 2: 29. 1756.
刺萵苣　Figs. 1-3

Annual or biennial herb, erect, 30-120 cm tall; stem subglabrous, somewhat glandularly hairy. Basal leaves usually pinnately incised or lobed, segments 2-4 pairs, 13-16 cm long, margins denticulate, acute to acuminate, cauline leaves unlobed or sometimes pinnate, 5-10 cm long, upper cauline leaves gradually becoming smaller and heart-shaped and clasping, midrib usually prickly setose. Inflorescence a narrow cylindrical panicle, 10-30 cm tall. Head ca. 8-10 mm across, peduncles 8-20 mm long. Involucre cylindrical, 6-10 × 3-4 mm, bracts glabrous, greenish, outer ones ovate, ca. 2-3 mm long, inner ones lanceolate. Florets 18-28, corolla yellow or pale-yellow, 8-10 mm long. Achenes elliptic, flat, dark-brown to black, ca. 2-3 × 1-2 mm, rough-hairy, several-veined on each face, beak ca. 5 mm long. Pappus white, ca. 5 mm long. Flowering time: May~Sept.

Specimen examined: Taichung Co., Wujih Township: Near the Taiwan High Speed Rail (HSR) Taichung Station, May 15, 2007, *T. W. Hsu 12720* (TNM); Same loc., May 25, 2007, *C. M. Wang 10241* (TNM); Same loc., May 27, 2007, *C. M. Wang 10254* (TNM). Same loc., July 7, 2007 *C. H. Chen 8813* (TNM). Penghu Co., Makung City: Makung Port, 2nd Fishing Harbor, Aug 22, 2008, *C. C. Wang s. n.* (TNM).

Distribution and notes: This species is believed to have originated from Europe, the Mediterranean region. It was accidentally introduced into North America in the late 1890s, and was also distributed through Africa, and Asia. The plant is also widely naturalized in temperate regions (Lebeda et al., 2004). In Taiwan, this species was found in an exposed area in the central part of western Taiwan and Penghu islands (Fig. 1), mixed with low grasses and weeds on a roadside. Since 2007, the populations in Taiwan were stable or somewhat extended during the field observation.

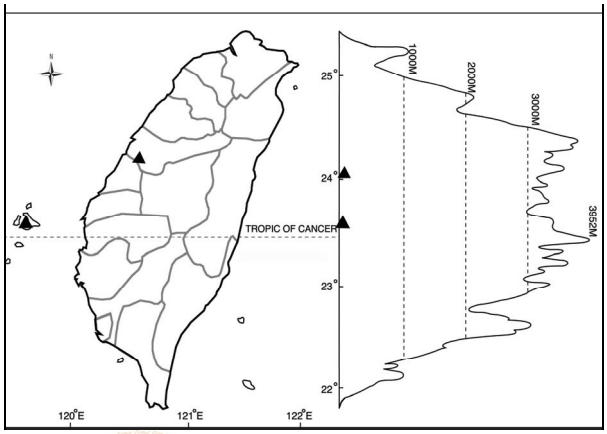


Fig. 1. Distribution of *Lactuca serriola* (triangles) in Taiwan.

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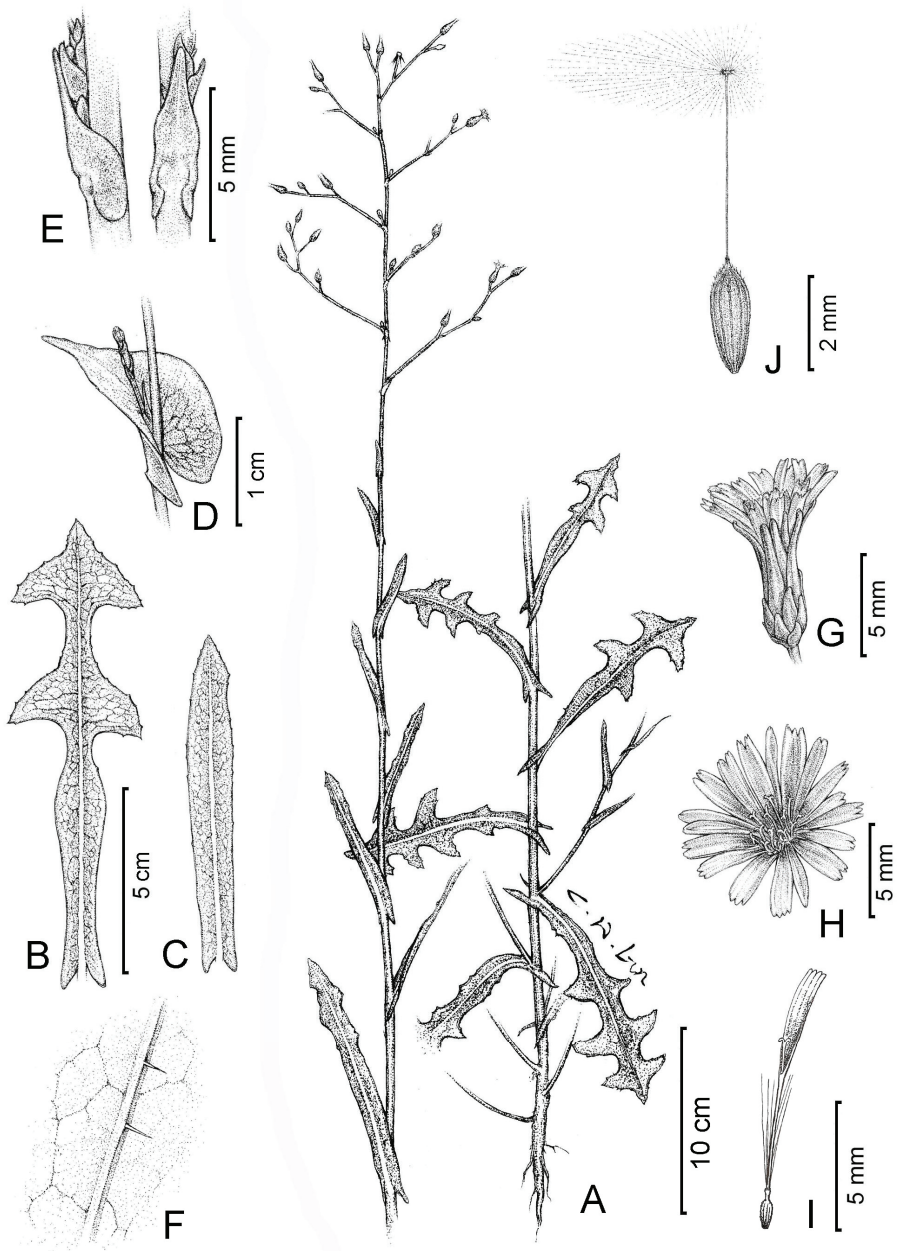


Fig. 2. ***Lactuca serriola*****. A: Habit. B: Basal leaf. C, D, E: Upper cauline leaves. F: Leaf venation. G: Head, showing involucre. H: Head, viewed from above. I: Floret. J: Achene. (*****C. M. Wang 10254*****)**

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Fig. 3. *Lactuca serriola*. A: Habit and habitat. B: Head. C: Infructescence. Bar = 5 mm.

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菊科新歸化植物－刺萵苣

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摘要：本文報導臺灣的新歸化植物，菊科的刺萵苣（*Lactuca serriola* L.），發現分佈於西臺灣中部與澎湖，屬於入侵型雜草。除在臺灣的地理分佈外，本文提供分類特徵描述，手繪圖，以及照片以供區分鑑定。

關鍵詞：菊科、刺萵苣、歸化植物、臺灣。

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