

## LACTUCA TATARICA, A BEAUTIFUL SPECIES FROM EAST OF IRAN

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*Lactuca tatarica* is a very beautiful species which is recorded for the first time from East of Iran. The species is compared with its close relative *L. wilhelmsiana*.

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*Key words.* *Lactuca*, *Compositae*, Iran.

گونه‌ای زیبا به نام *Lactuca tatarica* از شرق ایران

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گونه *Lactuca tatarica*. گونه ای بسیار زیبا از این جنس است که برای اولین بار از شرق ایران گزارش می شود. این گونه با گونه نزدیک خود *L. wilhelmsiana* مقایسه می شود.

### Introduction

As a result of an intensive floral and botanical explorations in Iran in recent years, the Central Herbarium of Tehran University has obtained numerous collections. The collections include new records for Iran and new species to science, of these *Lactuca tatarica* C.A.Mey. (*Compositae*, *Lactuceae*) is reported and illustrated here.

***Lactuca tatarica*** C. A. Mey. (*Compositae*, *Lactuceae*)

Khorasan: Mashhad, Kalat-e Naderi road, Hezar-Masjed mountains, Jarf road, around Khanzu village, Ghehremen, Attar and Mehdigholi, 1373 m, 27673-TUH.

*Lactuca tatarica* is recorded for the first time from Iran. This genus has now 11 species in Iran (Rechinger 1977). This beautiful rare species is most closely allied to *L. wilhelmsiana* Fisch. & C. A. Mey. in DC.

which was collected once by Wendelbo from Panjab in Haraz valley, Mazandaran province (see Rechinger, l. c.).

*Lactuca tatarica* is distributed in East of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Himalaya mountains.

Differences between *Lactuca tatarica* and *L. wilhelmsiana* are as follows: bracts without black spots dorsally (black-spotted in *L. wilhelmsiana*); achene suddenly discolored rostrate (achene gradually concolored rostrate in *L. wilhelmsiana*); ligular flowers 15-20, pale pink (10-15 and yellow in *L. wihlhelmsiana*).

### Reference

Rechinger, K. H., 1977: *Compositae* (*Lactuceae*), *Flora Iranica*, no. 122. - Akademische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz-Austria.

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Fig. 1. *Lactuca tatarica* (x 0.5).