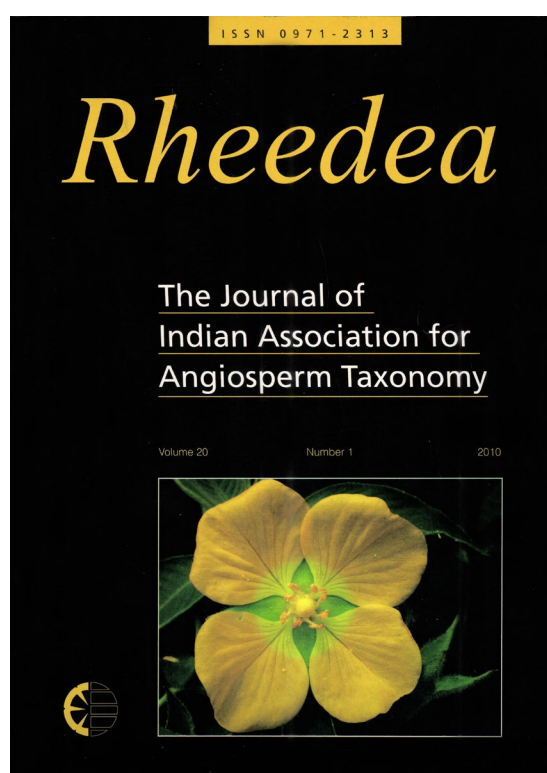




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Taxonomic notes on *Tricholepis raghavendrae* (Asteraceae – Cardueae)

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Abstract

Tricholepis raghavendrae Saklani & L.B. Chaudhary is conspecific with *Serratula pallida* DC., which is currently treated under *Klasea* Cass. The photographs of type specimens of both species are provided here for comparison. The paper also highlights the key characters applied for the distinction of *Tricholepis* DC. from its closely allied genera, *Klasea* Cass. and *Serratula* L.

Keywords: Asteraceae, Cardueae, *Klasea pallida*, Taxonomy, *Tricholepis raghavendrae*

Hooker (1882) distinguished the genera *Serratula* L. and *Tricholepis* DC. based on the nature of filaments (glabrous vs. papillose) and the nature of anther-tails (short or absent vs. lacerate). Borisova (1963), Shih (1987) and Hajra (1995) have also used the filament character to distinguish these genera. Dittrich (1979) keyed out *Tricholepis* by the shape of the involucre bracts. Whereas, closely related genera namely, *Serratula* L. and *Nikitinia* Iljin are differentiated based on “filamenta glabra” vs “filamenta verruculata”. However, Martins (2006) has treated both *Nikitinia* and *Serratula* under *Klasea* Cass.

Filaments of several *Klasea* species were inspected, and none was found to have completely glabrous filaments. Mostly the filaments are papillose with papillae 0.1 to 0.3 times as long as the width of the filaments; longer papillae (c. 0.4 times as long as width of the filament) occur as in *K. quinquefolia* (M. Bieb. ex Willd.) Cass. ex Greuter & Wagenitz. Papillae of filaments in *Tricholepis* found to be 0.5 times as long as the width of the filaments. If this character is used in determination keys, it should thus be expressed as the ratio between papilla length and filament width. However, it is not desirable to use microscopic characters in keys for flowering plants. It seems to be more appropriate to distinguish *Klasea* and *Tricholepis*

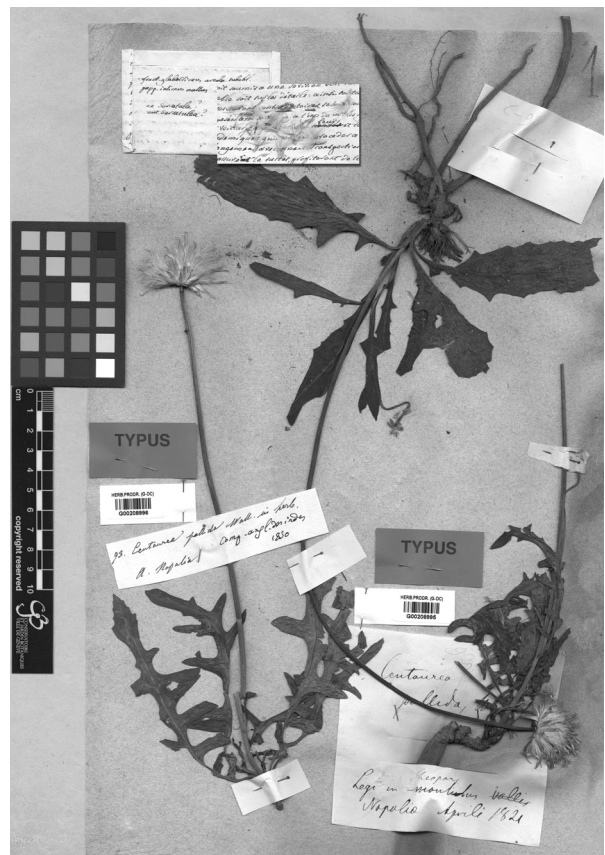


Fig. 1. Type specimen of *Serratula pallida* DC. at G – DC.



Fig. 2. Type specimen of *Tricholepis raghavendrae* Saklani & L.B. Chaudhary at LWG.

on the basis of the characters of the involucre bracts, which can easily be inspected in both flowering and fruiting plants and perfectly allow a distinction. In case of *Tricholepis* middle involucre bracts are 0.5 – 1 mm wide and have a long acuminate tip, whereas they are 1 – 6 mm wide with or without a short spinule in *Klasea*. The type specimen of *T. raghavendrae* Saklani & L.B. Chaudhary was identified as *Tricholepis* based on the key provided by Hooker (1881) and subsequent workers. However, fresh examination of the type specimens of *T. raghavendrae* and *Klasea pallida* (DC.) Holub reveals that the former to be conspecific with the latter and the differences, if any, are covered within its range of variation. Thus, *Tricholepis raghavendrae* is relegated here to a synonym of *Klasea pallida*.

Klasea pallida (DC.) Holub, *Preslia* 70: 106. 1998; L. Martins, *J. Linn. Soc., Bot.* 152: 455. 2006. *Serratula pallida* DC., *Prodr.* 6: 670. 1838; Hajra in Hajra *et al.*, *Fl. India* 12: 217. 1995. – Type: in Nepaliâ, Kamaon et Deyra-Dhoon legit cl. Wallich et in Indiae prov. boreali-occid. cl. Royle (G – DC).

Fig. 1

Tricholepis raghavendrae Saklani & L.B. Chaudhary, *Adansonia* 3, 25: 234, f. 1. 2003, **syn. nov.** – Type: INDIA, Himachal Pradesh, Palampur district, Holta, 1310 m, 7.5.2001, *Saklani* 281 (Holotype – LWG).

Fig. 2

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