

## TARAXACUM JENNISKENSIAE SAHLIN, SPECIES NOVA (ASTERACEAE)

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Mrs JENNISKENS has recently reported a remarkable *Taraxacum* from the Department Sarthe, France, in this journal (1984). It is a diploid with sexual reproduction and Mrs Jenniskens has proved that it can be self-fertilised so the plant is self-compatible, which is an unusual character among West-European *Taraxaca* and has been only previously reported to occur in “primitive” species such as *T. bessarabicum* (Horn.) Hand.-Mazz., and *T. serotium* (W. & K.) Poir. (RICHARDS 1973). However, the plant under discussion is a “modern” type related to section *Taraxacum*, most members of which are triploid obligate agamosperms. Although outbreeding (sporophytically self-incompatible) sexual diploids, such as are found elsewhere in section *Taraxacum* in France (DEN NIJS & STERK 1984) are very variable and may defy “agamospecies type” classification, an inbreeder such as this is much less variable. It can theretofore be morphologically distinguished and may for those reasons be confidently described. I propose the following name to honour an interesting discovery:

***T. jenniskensiae* Sahlin, sp. nov.**

Icones: JENNISKENS 1984 p. 75.

Folia 90–150 mm, prasino-viride, sparse araneosa. Lobi laterales 4–6, distantes, sat lineares, sat breves, patentes, margine distali ad basim dentato, in apicem acutum et sensim angustatum. Interlobia longa et angusta, integra ad subulato-dentata. Lobus terminalis mediocris, triangularis et hastatus, saepius in uno vel utroque latere profunde incisus. Petiolus non ad anguste alatus, pallidus.

Scapi 150 mm longi, sub involucre floccosi, ceterum sparsim araneosi. Involucrum parvum, post anthesin 12 mm altum,  $\pm$  olivaceo-viride. Squamae exteriores c. 3  $\times$  c. 11 mm, patentes, superne sat laete virides, angustissime marginatae vel immarginatae.

Calathium parvum 25–30 mm, pure luteum. Ligulae marginales extus stria atrovioacea ornatae; interiores apicibus luteis. Antherae polloniferae. Stigmata sicca sat obscura.

Achenium fusco-olivaceum, pyramide inclusa c. 3.5 mm longum, superne sat breviter erecto-spinulosum, inferne  $\pm$  laeve, in pyramidem 0.4 mm longam, sat cylindricam, subabrupte abiens. Rostrum 6–8 mm longum. Pappus albus.

Chromosomatum numerus  $2n = 16$  (JENNISKENS 1984).

Holotypus: France, dep. Sarthe, a hay-field alongside the road D 306 between Laval and la-Fièche, in spring 1980, Den Nijs, cultivated in Amsterdam April 1983, Jenniskens (ADM: M 000067 A).

Leaf 90–150 mm long, mid- to darkgreen, sparsely arachnoid. Lobes 4–6, distant, fairly linear, fairly short, patent, distal margin dentate at its base, uniformly tapering into an acute apex. Interlobes long and narrow, entire to filiform-dentate. Terminal lobe medium-sized, triangular and hastate, often with incisions in one or both sides. Petioles not to narrowly winged, pale. Scapes 150 mm, floccose below the capitulum, the rest sparsely arachnoid. Involucres small, after the anthesis 12 mm high,  $\pm$  olive green. Exterior bracts c.  $3 \times c. 11$  mm, spreading, pale green above, not to very narrowly marginate. Capitule small, 25–30 mm, pure yellow. Outer ligules striped blackish violet; the inner ones with yellow tips. Anthers with pollen. Stigmas dark (dry). Achenes olive-brown, c. 3.5 mm long including the cone, with short, erect spines at the apex, the rest  $\pm$  smooth, abruptly passing into a cylindrical, 0.4 mm long cone. Rostrum 6–8 mm. Pappus white.  $2n = 16$  (JENNISKENS, 1984).

This new species recalls somewhat *T. rubrisquameum* M.P. Chr. but differs distinctly by its pale petioles, unblotched leaves and green exterior bracts. A remarkable feature is the unusually large pollen grains, in average  $40.8 \mu\text{m}$  (s.d.  $\pm 2.2 \mu\text{m}$ ) according to JENNISKENS (1984).

#### REFERENCES

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- RICHARDS, A. J. (1973): The origin of *Taraxacum* agamospecies. – *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.* **66**: 189–211.