

SPECIES

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Sonchus wightianus DC.

Additions to Angiosperm diversity of Doaba region of Punjab, India compiled by Kaur et al., (2017)

Varinder Sharma¹, Rai Singh²

ABSTRACT

Sonchus wightianus DC. is a member of family Asteraceae recorded first time from Doaba region of Punjab, India. Morphological features such as stem, leaf, involucre bract were examined for establishment the identity of the plant. This study will be useful for taxonomists, ethnobotanists and researchers etc. as additions to the flora of the region.

Keywords: *Sonchus wightianus* DC; Asteraceae (Compositae); Doaba region

1. INTRODUCTION

Sonchus L. belongs to family Asteraceae (Compositae) with c95 species which are distributed all over the world (Boulos 1960; Cho et al., 2019). Yellow to pale yellow or orange yellow-coloured flowers are the distinct feature of the plant. Species of the genus *Sonchus* consist generally ligulated heads. According to Quireshi et al., (2002) clasping, pinnatifid, segmented leaves, homogamous heads, compressed and ellipsoid achenes with white pappus are important features of the genus. Sidhu and Singh, (2021) suggested that *Sonchus* species possess milky latex. There were two species of *Sonchus* viz. *S. asper* (L.) Hill and *S. oleraceus* (L.) L. documented from Doaba region (Punjab) by Kaur et al., (2017). Later on, Kaur, (2021) recorded the same.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

Present study was conducted in Dehrian District Hoshiarpur (Doaba region), Punjab, India in March 2023. Morphological features (stem, leaves, flower, involucre bract, achene etc) were examined for accurate identification. Available literature (Hooker, 1882; Bamber, 1916; Turner et al., 1961; Walter and Kutta, 1971; Boulos, 1972; Hsieh et al., 1972; Nair, 1978; Mejias and Andres, 2004; Cho et al., 2019) and online websites (flowers of India; eflora of India; the plant list; world flora online) were also consulted for establishment of the identity of the species.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Morphologically, plant is erect, dark green in colour. Stem is slender, rough, hairy to glandular hairy and green. Leaves are amplexicaul, oblong with round auricles. Capitulum is homogamous, orange yellow. Involucral bracts are glandular hairy (Figure 1). Involucral bracts clearly distinct the *S. wightianus* from other species (Sidhu and Singh, 2021). Achenes are compressed with white and smooth pappus.

Sonchus wightianus DC. is not recorded in previous studies about floristic diversity (Sharma et al., 2009; Rawat et al., 2013; Manhas et al., 2010, Kaur et al., 2017; Kaur, 2021) of Doaba region of Punjab, India. Therefore, it is as addition to *Sonchus* species of the region.

Phenology

Flowering and fruiting are occurring almost throughout the year.

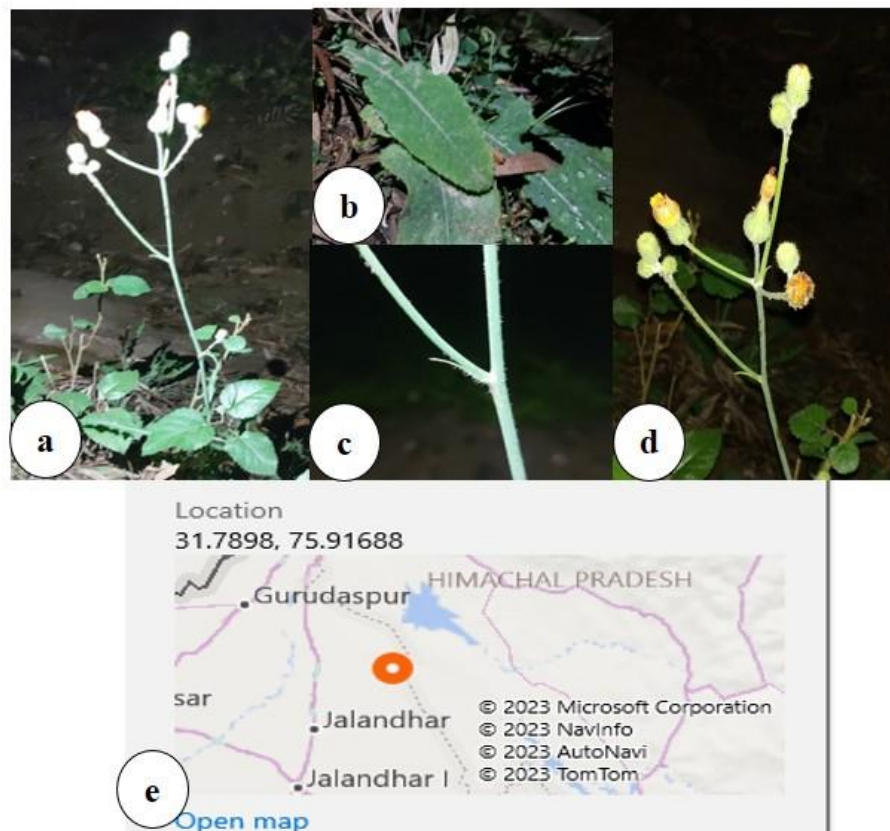


Figure 1 (a-e) Morphology of *Sonchus wightianus*. a- Habit; b-Leaf; c- Stem; d- Heads; e- GPS Location of collection

4. CONCLUSION

Sonchus wightianus DC. is new distributional record from Doaba region of Punjab, India. *Sonchus* species have potential to fight against many diseases. Therefore, present study will be useful for ethnobotanists as well as for pharmacists for development of drugs.

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Informed consent

Not applicable.

Ethical approval

The ethical guidelines for plants & plant materials are followed in the study for sample collection & identification.

Conflicts of interests

The authors declare that there are no conflicts of interests.

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Data and materials availability

All data associated with this study are present in the paper.

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