A Preliminary Taxonomic Study of the Tribe Cichorieae (Asteraceae) in Thailand and Lao PDR.

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Cichorieae is a tribe in the family Asteraceae. It has 12 subtribes, 86 genera and about 1,500 species, distributed mainly in the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere. The distinctive characters of the tribe are milky latex, rosulate leaves and homogamous capitula with bisexual, 5-dentate ligulate florets. Recently, generic delimitations within the tribe have been subject to considerable change. There is little taxonomic, ecological or usage data on the Cichorieae in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam (CLV) area. Consequently, the present work aims to evaluate the diversity of the tribe in Thailand and Lao PDR as a prelude for a study in the entire CLV area. Preliminary results, based on a literature review, herbarium specimens and field collections, show that nine genera and 19 species are found in Thailand, viz *Cicerbita putii* (Kerr) H. Koyama, *C. chiangdaoensis* H. Koyama, *C. garrettii* (Kerr) H. Koyama, Crepis chloroclada Coll. et Hemsl., C. lignea (Vant.) Babcock, *Ixeridium gracile* (DC.) Pak & Kawano, *Ixeris japonica* (Burm.f.) Nakai, *I. siamensis* (Kerr) Stebbins, *Lactuca garrettii* Kerr, *L. indica* L., *L. parishii* Craib, *L. sagittarioides* C.B. Clarke, *L. sativa* L., *Launaea acaulis* (Roxb.) Babcock ex Kerr, *L. sarmentosa* (Willd.) Sch.Bip. ex Kuntze, *Paraixeris sonchifolia* (Bunge) Tzvel., *Sonchus oleraceus* L., *S.* *wightianus* DC., and *Youngia japonica* (L.) DC. Seven genera and nine species are found in Lao PDR, viz *Crepis acaulis* (Roxb.) Hook.f., *Ixeridium gracile* (DC.) Pak & Kawano, *Lactuca indica* L., *L. versicolor*(Fisch. ex Link) Sch. Bip. ex Herder, *L. denticulata* (Houtt.) Maxim., *Launaea aspleniifolia* Hook.f., *Sonchus wightianus* DC., *Taraxacum officinale* F.H. Wigg., and *Youngia japonica* (L.) DC.