

## MICROMORPHOLOGY OF CYPSELA IN THE TRIBE PLUCHEEAE FROM PAKISTAN

RUBINA ABID AND M. QAISER

*Department of Botany,  
University of Karachi, Karachi-Pakistan.*

### Abstract

Micromorphological characters of 4 genera (*Doellia* Sch.-Bip., *Laggera* Sch.-Bip. ex C. Koch, *Pluchea* Cass. and *Pseudoconyza* Cuatrec.) and 7 specific and infra specific taxa in the tribe Plucheeae were examined from Pakistan by light and scanning electron microscopes. Cypselae characters support the taxonomic decisions, as all the taxa are clearly segregated on the basis of their distinguishable characters except that of the two subspecies of *Pluchea arguta*.

### Introduction

Tribe Plucheeae of the family Asteraceae is represented in Pakistan by 5 genera (*Laggera* Sch.-Bip. ex C. Koch, *Pseudoconyza* Cuatrec., *Blumeopsis* Gagnep., *Doellia* Sch.-Bip. and *Pluchea* Cass.) and 9 specific and infraspecific taxa (Qaiser & Abid, 2003).

The use of cypselae micromorphological characters has played an important role in the taxonomy for the various groups of the family Asteraceae such as Dittrich (1968) studied cypselae morphology of the subtribe Cardueae-Centaureinae and emphasized the importance of hilum shape and indumentum. Kynclova (1970) examined 15 species of various genera of the tribe Anthemideae and found that appearance, number and position of ribs and length of cypselae were diagnostic character for generic delimitation. In relation to cypselae morphology attention has also been paid to the structure of abscission zone (Carapodium) (Haque & Godward, 1984). Mateu & Guemes (1993) distinguished the European species of *Launaea* Cass., on the basis of cypselae morphology. Abid & Qaiser (2002) studied the cypselae morphology of *Inula* L. (s.str.) and its allied genera and concluded that these micromorphological characters support the taxonomic decisions. Similarly, Ritter & Miotlo (2006) studied the fruit surfaces in the genus *Mikania* Willd., and the species were separated into four groups according to surface pattern. Considerable attention has been given to cypselae characters in the family Asteraceae except that of the tribe Plucheeae. Cypselae characters in this tribe have not received due attention (Anderberg, 1991; Qaiser & Abid, 2003). Studies were therefore carried out to assess the cypselae morphological characters in order to strengthen the recognition of taxa belonging to the tribe Plucheeae from Pakistan.

### Materials and Methods

Seven taxa of 4 genera viz. *Doellia* Sch.-Bip., *Laggera* Sch.-Bip. ex C.Koch, *Pluchea* Cass. and *Pseudoconyza* Cuatrec., belonging to the tribe Plucheeae were examined for cypselae morphological characters under stereo (Nikon XN Model)/compound (Nikon type 102) and scanning electron microscopes (Joel JSM-6380 LV). For scanning microscopic studies, mature cypselae were mounted on a metallic stub with the help of double adhesive tape and coated with gold for a period of 6 minutes in sputtering chamber and observed under SEM.

The following characters were studied under light microscope

**Cypsela:** 1. Shape, 2. Colour, 3. Size, 4. Surface, 5. Number of ribs.

**Pappus:** 1. Series, 2. Number, 3. Colour, 4. Size.

**Carpopodium:** Shape and position of carpopodium were studied by SEM. For diameter of carpopodium and its foramen, carpopodium was detached and measurements were recorded in  $\mu\text{m}$  under compound microscope.

### Observations

**General characters of Plucheeae:** Cypsela oblong, ellipsoid or oblong-ellipsoid, 0.5-1.5 x 0.25-0.5 mm, colour varies from yellowish to brown or reddish brown, ribbed or non-ribbed, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, with or without red resin ducts. Pappus uniseriate, bristly, white, dirty white, cream or pale in colour, bristle 6-24 in number, 3-7 mm long. Carpopodium angular or circular, broad disc like without any interruption, basal-subbasal in position, 142-164  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Foramen of carpopodium 43-78  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter.

### Key to the genera

1. + Cypsela obscurely ribbed or unribbed ..... 2  
   – Cypsela with prominent ribs ..... *Pluchea*
2. + Cypsela oblong, somewhat angular, 0.5-0.75mm long with longitudinal red resin ducts. Pappus bristles 3-3.5mm long, dirty white ..... *Doellia*  
   – Cypsela oblong-ellipsoid or ellipsoid, non-angular, 1.0mm long without longitudinal red resin ducts. Pappus bristles 4-7mm long, white-pale ..... 3
3. + Cypsela ellipsoid, pappus bristles 4-5mm long. Carpopodium 164  $\mu\text{m}$ . Foramen of carpopodium 52  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter ..... *Pseudoconyza*  
   – Cypsela oblong-ellipsoid. Pappus bristles 6-7mm long. Carpopodium 149  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Foramen of carpopodium c. 43  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter ..... *Laggera*

### *Doellia* Sch. Bip.

It is represented by a single species i.e., *D. bovei* (DC.) Anderberg

Cypsela oblong, somewhat angular, 0.5-0.75 x 0.5 mm, brown, non-ribbed, sparsely pubescent, with red resin ducts. Pappus uniseriate, bristly, dirty white, bristle 8-12 in number, 3-3.5 mm long. Carpopodium broad disc like circle without any interruption, basal-subbasal in position, 156  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter. Foramen of carpopodium 55  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter (Table 1; Fig. 1A, B).

### *Laggera* Sch.-Bip. ex C. Koch

It is represented by a single species viz., *L. alata* (D. Don) Oliver

Table 1. Micromorphological characters of Cypselae of the tribe Plucheeae.

Name of taxa	<i>Doellia bovei</i>	<i>Laggera alata</i>	<i>Pluchea lanceolata</i>	<i>P. wallichiana</i>	<i>P. arguta</i> Boiss. subsp. <i>arguta</i>	<i>P. arguta</i> Boiss. subsp. <i>glabra</i>	<i>Pseudocoryza viscosa</i>
<b>Cypselae</b>							
Shape	Oblong, angular	Oblong-ellipsoidal, non-angular	Oblong, angular	Oblong, angular	Oblong-oblanceolate, non-angular	Oblong-oblanceolate, non-angular	Ellipsoid, non-angular
Surface (hairs)	Sparsely pubescent with red resin ducts	Sparsely pubescent without red resin ducts	Glabrous without red resin ducts	Glabrous without red resin ducts	Sparsely pubescent without red resin ducts	Sparsely pubescent without red resin ducts	Sparsely pubescent without red resin ducts
No. of ribs	0	0	6-8	6-8	6-8	6-8	0
Colour	Brown	Brown	Brown	Yellowish	Brown	Brown	Reddish brown
Size (mm)	0.5-0.75 x 0.5	1.0 x 0.5	0.75-1.0 x 0.5	1-1.5 x 0.5	1.5 x 0.5	1.5 x 0.5	1.0 x 0.5
<b>Pappus (Bristles)</b>							
Series	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Number	8-12	10-14	20-24	14-18	6-8	6-8	10-12
Size (mm)	3-3.5	6-7	4-5	4-5	5-6	5-6	4-5
Colour	Dirty white	Pale white	White-cream	Pale white	Yellowish	Yellowish	White
<b>Carpopodium</b>							
Shape	Broad disc like circle without any interruption	Broad disc like circle without any interruption	Broad angular disc without any interruption	Broad angular disc without any interruption	Broad disc like circle without any interruption	Broad disc like circle without any interruption	Broad disc like circle without any interruption
Position	Basal-subbasal	Basal - subbasal	Basal - subbasal	Basal - subbasal	Basal - subbasal	Basal - subbasal	Basal - subbasal
Diameter of carpodium (µm)	158.0	149.0	142.0	142.0	164.0	164.0	164.0
Diameter of foramen of carpodium (µm)	55.0	43.35	76.0	63.0	78.0	78.0	52.0

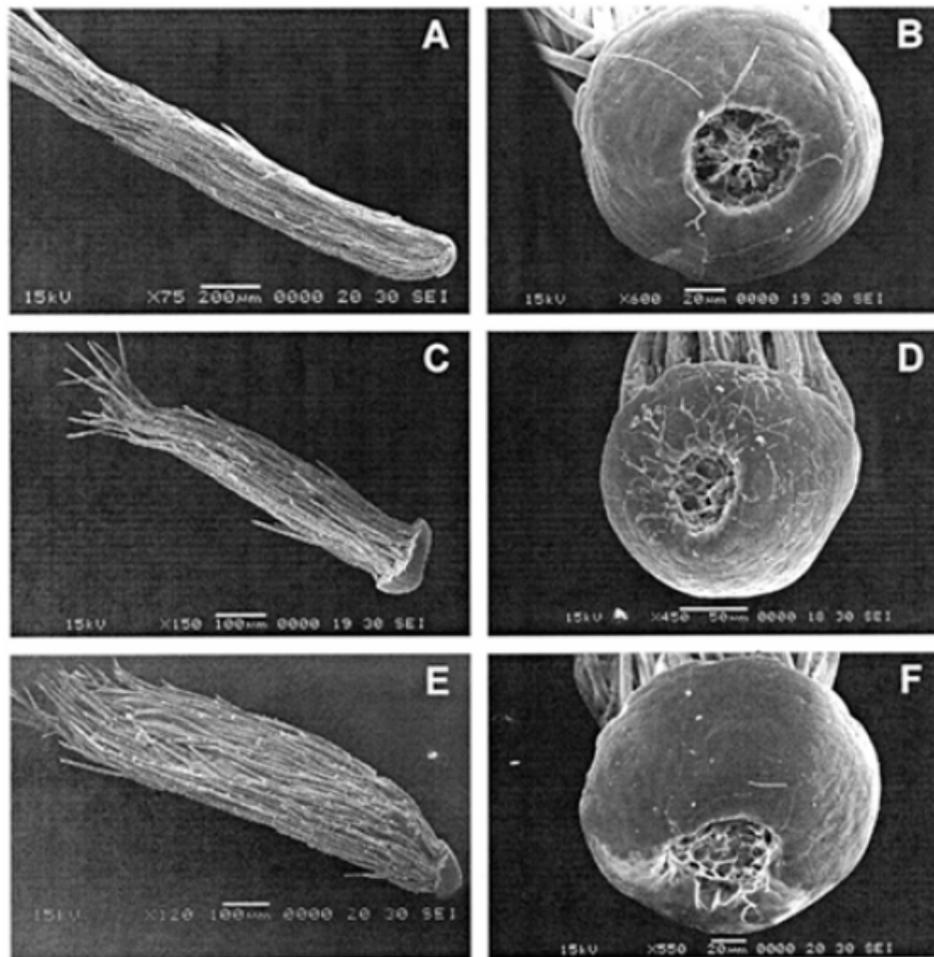


Fig. 1. Scanning Electron micrographs. *Doellia bovei*: A, cypsela, B, carpodium; *Laggera alata*: C, cypsela, D, carpodium; *Pseudoconyza viscosa*: E, cypsela, F, carpodium.

Cypsela oblong-ellipsoid, non-angular, 1.0 x 0.5 mm, brown, non-ribbed, sparsely pubescent, without red resin ducts. Pappus uniseriate, bristly, pale white, bristle 10-14 in number, 6-7 mm long. Carpodium broad disc like circle without any interruption, basal-subbasal in position, 149 $\mu$ m in diameter. Foramen of carpodium c.43 $\mu$ m in diameter (Table 1; Fig. 1C, D).

#### *Pluchea* Cass.

It is represented by 4 specific and infra specific taxa viz., *Pluchea arguta* Boiss. subsp. *arguta*, *P. arguta* Boiss. subsp. *glabra* Qaiser, *P. lanceolata* (DC.) C.B. Clarke and *P. wallichiana* DC.

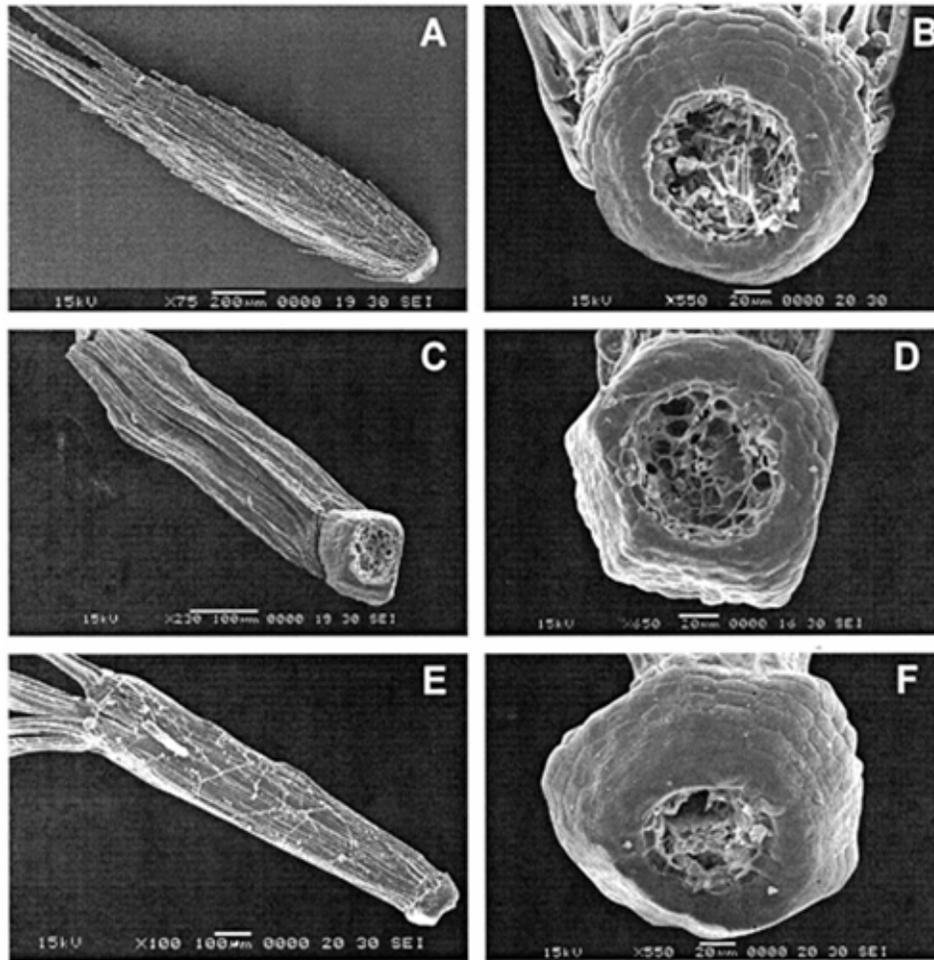


Fig. 2. Scanning Electron micrographs. *Pluchea arguta* Boiss. subsp. *arguta*: A, cypselum, B, carpopodium; *P. lanceolata*: C, cypselum, D, carpopodium; *P. wallichiana*: E, cypselum, F, carpopodium.

Cypselum oblong or ellipsoid, angular or non-angular, 0.75-1.5 x 0.25-0.5 mm, yellow-brown, 6-8 ribbed, glabrous or sparsely pubescent, without red resin ducts. Pappus uniseriate, bristly, white-cream or yellowish, bristle 6-24 in number, 4-6 mm long. Carpopodium broad disc like angular or circular without any interruption, basal-subbasal in position, 142-164µm in diameter. Foramen of carpopodium 63-78µm in diameter (Table 1; Fig. 2A-F).

#### *Pseudoconyza* Cuatrec.

It is also represented by a single species viz., *P. viscosa* (Mill.) D' Arcy.

Cypselum ellipsoid, non-angular, 1.0x0.5mm, reddish brown, obscurely ribbed, sparsely pubescent, without red resin ducts. Pappus uniseriate, bristly, white, bristle 10-

12 in number, 4-5 mm long. Carpodium broad disc like circle without any interruption, basal-subbasal in position, 164 $\mu$ m in diameter. Foramen of carpodium 52 $\mu$ m in diameter (Table 1; Fig. 1E, F).

#### Key to the species of *Pluchea*

1. + Cypsela angular, glabrous. Pappus bristles 14-24 in number ..... 2
  - Cypsela non angular, hairy. Pappus bristles 6-8 in number .....  
..... *P. arguta* subsp. *arguta* & subsp. *glabra*
2. + Pappus bristles 14-18 in number. Foramen of carpodium 63 $\mu$ m in diameter .....  
..... *P. wallichiana*
  - Pappus bristles 20-24 in number. Foramen of carpodium 76 $\mu$ m in diameter .....  
..... *P. lanceolata*

#### Results and Discussion

Asteraceae is a natural family and there are a number of binding characters. The morphology of cypsela is no way different from the rest of the family and it does not support the delimitation at tribal level. Most of the tribes have overlapping cypsela characters except that of the tribes Heliantheae and Eupatorieae which are distinguished from the rest of the tribes due to the presence of black (carbonized) cypselas (Bremer, 1994; Qaiser & Abid, 2003). Although in the tribe Plucheeae cypsela features are not characteristic but found useful to support the recognition of 4 genera and 6 species from Pakistan. Very little information on cypsela morphology in this tribe is available (Anderberg, 1991; Qaiser & Abid, 2003) and to some extent their finding are also in accordance to the present findings where the genus *Pluchea* Cass., can easily be distinguished by the presence of prominent ribs on cypsela while in rest of the genera either the ribs are totally absent or inconspicuous. *Doellia* Sch.-Bip., is delimited from *Pseudoconyza* Cuatrec., and *Laggera* Sch. Bip. ex C. Koch, due to red resin ducts on somewhat angular and oblong cypsela. *Pseudoconyza* is separated from *Laggera* by the presence of ellipsoid cypsela and 4-5mm long pappus bristles, while in *Laggera*, cypsela is oblong-ellipsoid and bristles are 6-7mm in length. Likewise, the species of *Pluchea* are also separated from each other, such as *P. arguta* Boiss., is delimited from the rest of the species due to the presence of hairy and non angular cypsela with 6-8 pappus bristles. While in *P. lanceolata* (DC.) C.B. Clarke and *P. wallichiana* DC., cypselas are angular and glabrous, pappus bristle varies from 14-24 in number. Further more, both the species can also be delimited as in *P. wallichiana* pappus bristles are 14-18 in number and foramen of carpodium is 63 $\mu$ m in diameter. While, in *P. lanceolata*, pappus bristles are 20-24 in number and foramen of carpodium is 76  $\mu$ m in diameter. It is also noteworthy that both the subspecies of *P. arguta* Boiss., i.e. *P. arguta* Boiss., subspecies *arguta* and subspecies *glabra* Qaiser, can not be separated micromorphologically as they share all the similar characters of cypsela. It is evident that the micromorphological characters of cypsela have proved to be very rewarding not for only generic delimitation but also for specific delimitation.

### Acknowledgement

This research work is a part of project (DFS/2006-23), financed by University of Karachi, which is sincerely acknowledged.

### References

- Abid, R.D. and M. Qaiser. 2002. Cypselae Morphology of *Inula* L. (s.str.) and its allied genera (*Inuleae-Compositae*) from Pakistan and Kashmir. *Pak. J. Bot.*, 34(3) 207-223.
- Anderberg, A.A. 1991. Taxonomy and Phylogeny of the tribe Plucheeae (Asteraceae). *Pl. Syst. Evol.*, 176: 145-177.
- Bremer, K. 1994. *Asteraceae Cladistics & Classification*. Timber Press, Portland, Oregon.
- Dittrich, M. 1968. Morphologische Untersuchungen an den Früchten der subtribus Cardueae-Centaureinae (*Compositae*). *Willdoenowia*, 5: 67-107.
- Haque, M.Z. and M.B.E. Godward. 1984. New records of the carpodium in *Compositae* and its taxonomic use. *Bot. J. Linn. Soc.*, 89: 321-340.
- Kynclova, M. 1970. Comparative morphology of achenes of the tribe *Anthemidae* Cass. (Asteraceae) and its taxonomic significance. *Preslia (Praha)*, 42: 33-53.
- Mateu, I. and J. Guemes. 1993. Estudio carpológico del género *Launaea* Cass. (Asteraceae) en Europa. *Bot. Soc. Brot. Ser.*, 2, 66: 85-95.
- Qaiser, M. and R. Abid. 2003. *Flora of Pakistan. Asteraceae (II) Inuleae, Plucheeae & Gnaphalieae*. No. 210. In: S.I. Ali and M. Qaiser (Eds.). Dept. Bot. Univ. Karachi and Missouri Press. Missouri Botanical Garden, U.S.A.
- Ritter, M.R. and S.T. Miotto. 2006. Micromorphology of fruit surfaces in species of *Mikania* Willd. (Asteraceae) occurring in Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil. *Acta Bot. Bras.*, 20(1): 241-247.

(Received for publication 12 December 2006)