

THREE SPECIES OF *SIGESBECKIA* IN BRITAIN

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Plants of the genus *Sigesbeckia* (not *Siegesbeckia*) found occurring as aliens in Britain have been generally identified with *S. orientalis* L. A recent account of the genus in Europe published in Germany (H. Henker, 1965) has pointed out that there are in fact three different species occurring in Europe, all known from Britain. The commoner and perhaps only well established species in Britain is *S. cordifolia* H., B. & K. *S. orientalis* and *S. microcephala* DC. appear to occur only casually, particularly as wool adventives. The three species may be distinguished as follows:

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| 1 | Leaves narrowly elliptic or lanceolate with rather few irregular teeth, \pm sessile, up to 2cm broad excluding the teeth; involucre bracts not conspicuous, not exceeding the flowers and fruits
<i>S. microcephala</i> DC.
Leaves triangular-hastate to ovate or cordate, strongly constricted below the broadest point to form a variously winged 'petiole', the larger leaves 2-14 cm broad; outer involucre bracts conspicuous, spatulate, $1\frac{1}{2}$ -5 times as long as the flowers and fruits | 2 |
| 2 | Leaves broadly ovate to cordate, shallowly and regularly crenate or serrate, the petiole broadly winged to the base and \pm amplexicaul
<i>S. cordifolia</i> H., B. & K.
Leaves \pm triangular-hastate, irregularly dentate or lobed, the petiole tapering from above and \pm unwinged in the lower part, not amplexicaul
<i>S. orientalis</i> L. | |

S. orientalis is widespread in Asia, Africa and Australasia, a variable species in which subspecies have been recognised. *S. cordifolia* is a native of Central and South America, and *S. microcephala* is a native of Australia.

The specimens from the British Isles in the herbaria of the British Museum, Natural History (BM), Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K), University of Liverpool (LIVU) and the private herbarium of Mr J. E. Lousley (herb. LOUSLEY) are cited below:

S. CORDIFOLIA H. B. & K.

V.-c. 12. NORTH HANTS:

Fir plantation near FLEET, probably introduced with poultry food, ix. 1935, G. WATTS (herb. LOUSLEY).

FLEET, on a refuse dump, 17. x. 1958, Miss V. LEATHER (herb. LOUSLEY).

FLEET, rubbish tip, 30. ix. 1958, Mrs BERENS & Miss V. LEATHER 2184 (K).

FLEET tip, 4. ix. 1960, Miss MCCALLUM WEBSTER 5034 (K).

- V.-c. 16. WEST KENT:
On a cultivated strip at Fairseat Nursery, near Sevenoaks, 1960, G. St. CLAIR FIELDEN (K).
- V.-c. 59. SOUTH LANCASTER:*
- FRESHFIELD, vii. 1928, F. W. HOLDER (K).
Against the railway fence near Freshfield Station, 25. viii. 1928, F. W. HOLDER, R. WAGSTAFFE, J. N. FRANKLAND & A. G. LANGDON (herb. LOUSLEY).
FRESHFIELD, without date, F. W. HOLDER & WAGSTAFFE (K).
LANCS., viii. 1928, G. C. DRUCE H.1419 1928 (K).
Near FRESHFIELD STATION, 1. viii. 1937, J. E. LOUSLEY (herb. LOUSLEY).
FRESHFIELD, waste ground, vii. 1940, J. A. WHELLAN (K).
RUFFORD, x. 1940, E. HARDY (BM).
FRESHFIELD, roadside, x. 1941, G. V. C. LAST (K).
A weed in the garden of Mrs H. LEGGATT, 'The Elms', Formby, x. 1946 (K).
FRESHFIELD, 3. ix. 1947, E. P. A. JONES (BM).
Garden, FRESHFIELD, x. 1948, Miss W. FROST (herb. LOUSLEY).
FORMBY, reported to be a persistent weed in back garden of 79 Duke Street, 30. viii. 1957, R. K. BRUMMITT 57.44 (LIVU).—duplicate at Vienna (W) cited by Henker (1965).
FRESHFIELD, refuse tip, 17. x. 1964, Miss V. GORDON (herb. LOUSLEY).
FORMBY refuse tip, near Southport, 11. x. 1966, Mrs E. HODGSON (herb. LOUSLEY).
- V.-c. 63/64. SOUTH-WEST/MID-WEST YORKSHIRE:
LEEDS, waste ground, x. 1933, W. A. SLEDGE H.2413 1933 (K).—poor specimen, identity perhaps doubtful.

S. ORIENTALIS L.

- V.-c. 11. SOUTH HANTS:
BOURNEMOUTH, rubbish tip, 25. x. 1954, Miss K. M. MARKS (BM).
- V.-c. 12. NORTH HANTS:
BLACKMOOR, 11. x. 1959, J. E. LOUSLEY, W.1300 (herb. LOUSLEY).
BLACKMOOR, 11. x. 1965, LADY ANNE BREWIS in herb. LOUSLEY W 2648 (herb. LOUSLEY).
- V.-c. 15. EAST KENT:
ASH, 16. x. 1960, J. E. LOUSLEY W 1620 (herb. LOUSLEY).
- V.-c. 17/21 SURREY/MIDDLESEX:
KEW BRIDGE, vii, before 1873, IRVINE (K).
- V.-c. 30. BEDFORD:
MAULDEN, in beet near "Dog and Badger", 7. x. 1956, J. E. LOUSLEY W 400 (herb. LOUSLEY).
MAULDEN, arable weed, 24. ix. 1966, J. E. LOUSLEY W 3032 (herb. LOUSLEY).
- V.-c. 37. WORCESTER:
CHARLTON, wool alien, ref. 53101121, 11. x. 1953, Miss C. M. GOODMAN (herb. LOUSLEY).
CHARLTON, 15. ix. 1957, C. W. BANNISTER in herb. LOUSLEY W 434 (BM).
CHARLTON, carrot field treated with wool shoddy, 25. x. 1958, Miss McCALLUM WEBSTER 2209 (K) and 2252 (K).
CHARLTON, wool adventive, 2. x. 1960, J. E. LOUSLEY W 1555 (BM).
CHARLTON, in parsnip, 29. ix. 1963, J. E. LOUSLEY W 2042 (herb. LOUSLEY).

*Several specimens gathered at Freshfield are also to be found in the herbarium of the City of Liverpool Museums (LIV). They were collected at intervals between 1928 and 1963. Ed.

S. MICROCEPHALA DC.

V.-c. 30. BEDFORD:

MAULDEN, arable field, introduced with wool shoddy, 2. x. 1962, Miss McCALLUM WEBSTER 8199 (K).

MAULDEN, wool adventive, 13. x. 1962, J. E. LOUSLEY W 2011 (BM; K; herb. LOUSLEY).

The earliest of the above specimens to have been collected is that of *S. orientalis* from Kew Bridge. The specimen has no date, but the collector is Irvine, presumably Alexander Irvine who lived from 1793 to 1873 and was editor of *The Phytologist* from 1855 to 1863. It seems likely that the specimen was collected in the period 1850-1865.

S. cordifolia seems to have been first collected in 1928 in South Lancashire, and was recorded as *S. orientalis* in *Rep. botl. Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.*, **8** (5), 617-618 (1929). It has been collected at regular intervals in the same district since then and is said to be a persistent weed. It has probably persisted also at Fleet in North Hampshire from at least 1935, and was recorded from there as *S. orientalis* in *Rep. botl. Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.*, **11** (1), 31 (1936). The further record given there from Selby, Yorkshire, may well also be referable to *S. cordifolia*, but specimens have not been traced. The only record traced of *S. cordifolia* under the correct name is that from Oxford by J. P. M. Brenan in *Rep. botl. Soc. Exch. Club Br. Isl.*, **12** (3), 282 (1942).

Thanks are due to Mr J. E. Lousley for the loan of specimens from his herbarium and for his helpful comments.

REFERENCE

- HENKER, H. (1965). Die Gattung *Sigesbeckia* L. in Europa unter besonderer Berücksichtigung von Deutschland. *Arch. Freunde NatGesch. Mecklenb.*, **11**, 7-54.

