

White- and Pink-flowered *Cichorium intybus*, Blue-flowered Chicory, from British Columbia

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Cichorium intybus L., Blue-flowered Chicory, an introduced Eurasian weed, grows along roadsides in limited areas throughout North America where the colour of its flower heads are usually blue. This note provides a review and specific records of two rare forms of *C. intybus* and should be of interest to both the naturalist and the professional botanist.

During botanical investigations in the North Okanagan-Shuswap area of British Columbia in the summer of 1990, separate small populations of this species comprised of individuals with either pink or white flowers were observed growing freely among abundant stands of blue-flowered plants. The white-flowered form was collected near the intersection of the Gardam Lake road with Highway 97, approximately 6 miles north of Enderby, B.C., whereas both forms were found on the east side of Mara lake approximately 4 miles south of Sicamous, B.C., on Highway 97. As I have botanized in this area for many years and never observed this variation in flower colour it seemed appropriate to review the literature and examine herbarium specimens to determine how common such pink-flowered and white-flowered forms are.

Approximately 30 herbarium specimens representing collections from Alberta, British Columbia, Denmark, Illinois, New Brunswick, and Quebec were examined at the University of Calgary Herbarium (UAC). All specimens had blue flowers and no collectors' notes indicated that anything other than blue flowers were present.

Eleven local and international floras were consulted on the matter of flower colour in the species. Budd and Best (1969) and Looman and Best (1979) mention only the presence of blue flowers from the Canadian prairies. Munz (1959) from California, Hitchcock et al. (1955) from the Pacific Northwest, and Taylor and MacBryde (1977) and Clark (1973) from British Columbia indicate that flowers are blue and occasionally or rarely white. No mention is made about pink flowers by the previous authors. Moss (1959) in Alberta, Bailey (1949) in the *Manual of Cultivated Plants of North America*, Polunin (1969) from Europe, Frankton (1967) writing on the weeds of Canada and Scoggan (1979) in the *Flora of*

Canada all make mention of pink and white forms of *C. intybus* L. although they clearly state that such forms are either rare or at best occasional.

Of the above floras, the most instructive pertaining to flower colour was Scoggan (1979), who noted that plants with pink flowers were described as *C. intybus* L. forma *roseum* Neum. whereas the white-flowered plants were described as *C. intybus* forma *album* Neum. He goes on to note that records of both forms are known from southern Ontario near Ajax (OAC) and from southwestern Quebec (MT).

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