

64,707, the type. This species bears a remarkable likeness to the common chickweed as that appears in its later and fructiferous development. It is akin to *A. alsinoides* of Idaho, yet very distinct.

### AN ALPINE VARIETY OF *CNICUS MUTICUS*.

By M. L. FERNALD.

*Cnicus muticus* of our eastern swamps and low woods is a tall loosely branched plant with numerous scattered heads, the involucre of which are whitened with dense cobwebby hairs. This plant is frequent in southern New England, and in the more northern States and adjacent Canada it becomes one of the conspicuous elements of lowland vegetation.

On the alpine tableland of Mt. Albert in the Shickshock Mountains, a low simple-stemmed *Cnicus* abounds in boggy spots. Ordinarily only 3-6 dm. tall and very strict, with the 3 to 5 showy heads sessile in a terminal glomerule, the plant suggests at first sight some species very remote from the tall loosely branched *C. muticus* of low altitudes. In its dark purplish-green nearly glabrous involucre the plant is likewise quite different from typical *C. muticus* with its strongly white-arachnoid bracts.

On Mt. Albert the plant, as stated, is strict and low, but when it occasionally descends from the alpine tablelands and follows the rivers which have their sources in the Shickshock Mountains it becomes very tall. Thus, in alluvial thickets of the Little Casapedia River the plant, retaining its simple habit and glomerulate heads, becomes 1.6 m. high. As far as known to the writer this characteristic plant is confined to a limited area in eastern Quebec, where it is usually constant to the peculiar characters described. Occasional plants from adjacent territory are similar in habit but with the involucre quite as arachnoid as in typical *Cnicus muticus*. On this account and in the absence of any constant character in the foliage or in the form and texture of the bracts the plant should be considered an extreme variation of the widely distributed *C. muticus*, and on account of its great development in the alpine regions of Mt. Albert it may be called

*CNICUS MUTICUS* (Michx.) Pursh, var. *monticola* var. nov. Caule