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Living things that are neither human nor domesticated are said to be “wild life”. The term wild life includes animals as well as plants which form a part of any habitat in nature. Wild plants are not useless. They are source of food, fodder, medicines etc. Medicinally wild plants are much more important than cultivated plants.

A survey of MacClement and Richards (1956) in Canada showed that the frequency with which some of the wild plants are infected with viruses is high. Virologists have been primarily concerned with viruses causing economic losses in cultivated plants overlooking many weed species that grow in and around cultivated areas. These weeds may act as reservoirs of viruses. In all probability most economically important viruses have moved from wild plants to cultivated ones when new crops have been introduced into an area. Viruses that are introduced with cultivated plants often infect wild plants which form a permanent reservoir of virus for further cultivated crops. Interest in viruses in wild plants may result in greater efforts to prevent virus spread from them. Bennet (1952) expressed the opinion that “there are still many viruses in weeds waiting to escape into cultivated plants and can be considered "emerging" viruses as described recently for human viruses (HIV)".
Launaea is a herb with long slender roots narrowly obovate, lobed and toothed leaves and yellow paniculate flower heads found throughout the plains of Northern India and West Bengal extending southward to Andhra Pradesh and is also met within the Andamans.

Launaea is found in waste land as well as in and around cultivated fields in Northern India. This plant has been given the name Titlia, Ban gobi, Jangli gobi in Hindi; Tik-Chana in Bengali; Dhud phad in Rajasthani; and Batthal and Dudhlak in Punjabi. The roots of *Launaea aspleniifolia* in combination with other drugs are used as galactogogue by the Santals (Kirt. & Basu; 1935). The young leaves of *L. glomerata* are eaten locally as a salad. A decoction of the herb mixed with wheat meal is applied as a poultice to sore eyes (Kirt. & Basu; 1935). A decoction of *L. mucronata* is administered in constipation (Kirt. & Basu, 1935).

*L. nudicaulis* is used as fodder for goats. It is also used locally in curries (Santapau, 1953; Kirt & Basu, 1935). *L. sarmentosa* (= *L. pinnatifida*) is reported to possess tonic, soporific, diuretic and aperient properties and used as a substitute for taraxacum. Leaves are eaten during famine. The herb is fed to buffaloes as a galactogogue (Kirt. & Basu, 1935; Chopra, 1958).

During a survey of viral disease in 1994-95, in and around
Aligarh launaea (*Launaea aspleniifolia* Hook f.) showing characteristic mosaic symptoms was suspected to be infected with a virus. Therefore, an attempt has been made to identify the virus causing mosaic disease on *L. aspleniifolia* on the basis of symptomatology, host range, transmission, biophysical properties, morphological characteristics of virus particle, some physico-chemical properties, ultra structural studies of infected tissues, serology and RT - PCR.