

Taraxacum officinale
Weber ex F. H. Wigg.

Dandelion Leaf

Taraxaci officinale Folium

Asteraceae

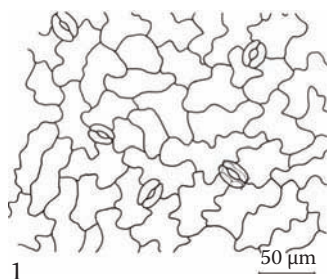
Dandelion leaf is used in Western herbalism for its effects as a diuretic. In this regard, some studies have shown it to be as effective as some conventional diuretics. Dandelion leaf and root, individually, and the combination of leaf and root are widely used and can be considered as separate or combination medicines. This characterization is of the leaf alone. *Taraxacum officinale* shows a considerable amount of intraspecies morphological variation due to the occurrence of numerous lines reproducing asexually (via apomixis). Such variation appears at the microscopic level as a wide range in the density of the leaf indumentum (trichome cover).

Surface view: Upper and lower epidermis are very similar, consisting of cells with wavy anticlinal walls and

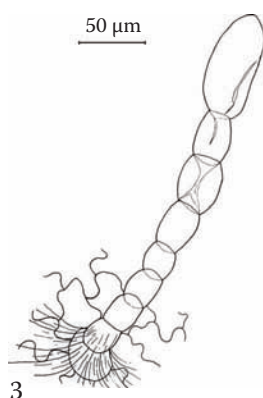
anomocytic stomata 25–35 μm long; uniseriate covering trichomes may occur; base of few quadratic and well-developed cells may be bi- or multiseriate; distal cells are thin walled, wrinkled, and often of a larger diameter than the basal cells; terminal cell is rounded; cuticular striations frequently occur around the trichome base; laticifers in the mesophyll run parallel to the veins and are visible through the lower epidermis.

Transverse section: Bifacial; palisade cells are mostly in two rows; spongy mesophyll has large intercellular spaces; collateral vascular bundles have laticifers arranged in a semicircle around the cap of fibers exterior to the phloem; midrib has a large cavity around which many vascular bundles are circularly arranged with their xylem facing the center of the cavity; collenchyma is found interior to the epidermis on both surfaces, especially at the midrib and where larger veins occur.

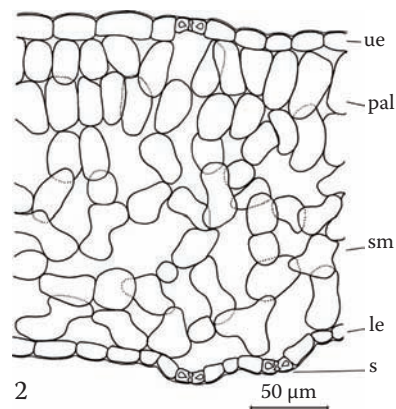
Powder: Fragments of the epidermis with anomocytic stomata; covering trichomes; laticifers; vascular tissue.



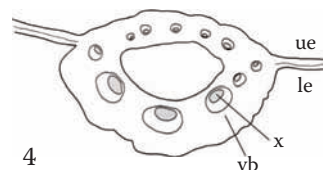
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