

## Narrowleaf hawkweed

### *Hieracium umbellatum* L.

Synonyms: *Hieracium columbianum* Rydb., *H. scabriusculum* Schwein., *H. scabriusculum* var. *columbianum* (Rydb.) Lepage, *H. scabriusculum* var. *perhirsutum* Lepage, *H. scabriusculum* var. *saximontanum* Lepage, *H. scabriusculum* var. *scabrum* (Schwein.) Lepage

Other common names: None

Family: Asteraceae

#### Description

Narrow-leaved hawkweed is a perennial from a short woody rhizome. Basal leaves are few and soon withering; stem leaves are lance-shaped and often toothed; leaf pubescence is with short, stiff, star-like hairs. Plants grow 15 to 50 inches tall, contain milky juice, and bear numerous, 3/4 – 1 1/2 inch flower heads. Flowers are deep yellow and appear in June and continue into early September in Alaska.



Narrowleaf hawkweed flowering stem.

A number of other *Hieracium* species occur in the state, but narrow-leaved hawkweed is distinguished from them by its tall stature, relatively large flower heads, lack of gray or black involucre pubescence, narrow leaves and the presence of withering basal leaves at flowering. Perennial sowthistle (*Sonchus arvensis*) is also tall with large yellow flowered heads. Perennial sowthistle can be distinguished by having prickly margins of leaves (Hultén 1968).



Narrowleaf hawkweed on roadside.

#### Ecological Impact

*Impact on community composition, structure, and interactions:* No perceived impact on native populations has been documented. It establishes in partly disturbed herbaceous communities in southcentral Alaska (I. Lapina – pers. obs.).

*Impact on ecosystem process:* Narrow-leaved hawkweed is likely to delay establishment of native species in disturbed sites (I. Lapina – pers. obs.).

#### Biology and Invasive Potential

*Reproductive potential:* Narrow-leaved hawkweed can spread by both seed and rhizomes (Plants for a future 2002).

*Role of disturbance in establishment:* This species has been observed only on disturbed sites in Alaska.

*Potential for long-distance dispersal:* Seeds have pappus and are likely wind-dispersed (Douglas et al. 1998).

*Potential to be spread by human activity:* Plants have been observed spreading along transportation corridors. It has been used as an ornamental (Plants for a future 2002).

*Germination requirements:* Unknown.

*Growth requirements:* Narrowleaf hawkweed is adapted to variety of soil types: sand, loam, or clay, but prefers well-drained, moist soils. It grows better

on sunny sites with neutral or acid soils, but can withstand semi-shade (Plants for a future 2002). *Cogeneric weeds: Hieracium aurantiacum* L., *H. caespitosum* Dumort, *H. pilosella* L., *H. piloselloides* Vill. (Royer and Dickinson 1999, USDA, NRCS 2006).

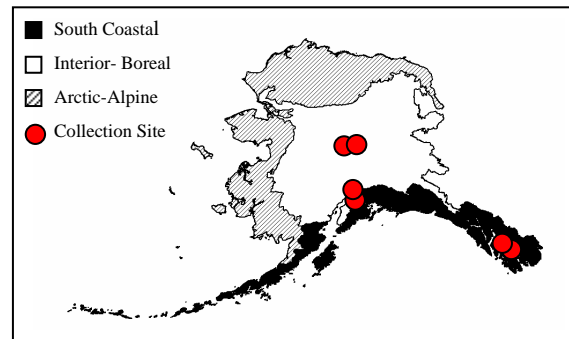
*Listing: Hieracium umbellatum* is not declared a weed in North America. It is listed a Threatened and Endangered Plant in New Hampshire (USDA, NRCS 2006).

### Distribution and Abundance

This species appears to be establishing in partially disturbed sites in southcentral Alaska. It is found primarily along roadsides, in forest edges and openings.

*Native and current distribution.* Narrow-leaved hawkweed is native to Europe and Temperate Asia (Douglas et al. 1998, USDA, ARS 2004). Introduced populations in North America extend from Alaska

south to Idaho and northwestern Oregon (Hitchcock & Cronquist 1990, Welsh 1974). However, it is considered native to the continental United States (ITIS 004).



Distribution of narrowleaf hawkweed in Alaska.

### Management

Control options have not been investigated.

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