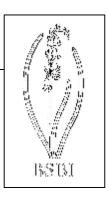
Plant Crib



HIERACIUM

The standard *Hieracium* monograph for Britain and Ireland by Sell & Murrell (2006) is the primary source of reference. It should be used in conjunction with McCosh & Rich (2011) who provide updated information on distribution, silhouettes of each species and some updated taxonomic notes. Detailed illustrated monographs are available for two sections, Section Alpina (Tennant & Rich 2008) and Section Alpestria (Rich & Scott 2011).

It is probably best to get to know the local *Hieracium* flora from existing expertly-determined specimens, records and populations. Failing this, it is best to note the locality, six-figure grid reference, habitat, size of population and the time of flowering so populations can be followed up later. Specimens can be provisionally identified to Section using Stace's New Flora.

Notes on collecting

There is no point in collecting *Hieracium* unless you are prepared to collect and preserve good, adequately documented specimens. The following notes indicate essential points to remember:

- i) Hawkweeds should be collected at their first flowering. Species with 0-1 stem leaves should be collected not later than mid-June, those with 2-8 not later than mid-July, and others at their first flowering. These dates apply to England and Wales; allowances should be made for the later season further north and at altitudes over 250 m (800 feet).
- ii) A representative plant should be collected by cutting through the stem below the basal leaves. The rootstock should be left undisturbed (such rootstocks will usually regenerate).
- Secondary growth (i.e. after damage to the primary shoot) cannot be safely named, nor can plants iii) infected with moulds, damaged by insects, etc. and should not be collected.
- iv) Note in the field:
 - colour of leaves and styles
 - diameter (in millimetres) across the open flower heads to the extremities of the ligules
 - if the ligules are radiate, discrete or contiguous
 - shape of buds

Then tie a label containing this information and collecting details (date, habitat, six-figure grid reference) to the specimen before it is put in the press. The label should be left on mounted specimens.

References McCosh, D. J. & Rich, T. C. G. (2011). Atlas of British and Irish Hawkweeds (Pilosella Hill and Hieracium L.). BSBI, London.

> Rich, T. C. G. & Scott, W. (2011). British Northern Hawkweeds. A monograph of British Hieracium section Alpestria. BSBI, London.

Sell, P. D. & Murrell, G. (2006). Flora of Great Britain and Ireland. CUP, Cambridge. Tennant, D. J. & Rich, T. C. G. (2008). British alpine hawkweeds. BSBI, London.

Author

J. Bevan, December 1997. Updated T. C. G. Rich, 2012.