

Hieracium argillaceum

COMMON NAMES

hawkweed

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect perennial herb 20-75 cm tall. Leaves mostly in a basal rosette, but with some leaves present on flowering stems. Basal leaves 6-12 cm long by 2-5 cm wide, finely toothed, stem leaves smaller and more coarsely toothed. Multiple clusters of yellow flowers.

SIMILAR TAXA

The yellow flowers, lack of stolons, toothed leaves and few leaves on the stems separates this species from most other *Hieracium* in NZ. To separate from, *H. lepidulum* and *H. pollichiae*, you need to look closely at the types of hairs on the small leaves (bracts) that make up the base of the flowerhead with a magnifying lens. *H. argillaceum* lacks long pale-tipped hairs present on *H. lepidulum* and *H. pollichiae*.

HABITAT

H. argillaceum is very similar to *H. murorum* but lacks square based leaves and has more (2-5, cf 1-2) leaves on flowering stems.

GENUS

Hieracium

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Hieracium argillaceum group

SYNONYMS

Hieracium lachenalii L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental



LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Terrestrial. Roadsides, rocky places, waste land, in scrub grassland and forest (Webb et al 1988).

ETYMOLOGY

hieracium: From the Greek hierax 'hawk'. Pliny the Elder (AD 23 - AD 79) believed the plant to be eaten by hawks to improve their eyesight.

argillaceum: From the Latin argilla 'clay', meaning growing in argillaceous soils

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

NVS CODE

HIEARG

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning.

Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988. Flora of New Zealand Volume IV; Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hieracium-argillaceum/>

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27 May 2026