

Hieracium lepidulum

COMMON NAME

tussock hawkweed

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Hieracium lepidulum (Stenstr.) Omand

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

HIELEP

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Grassland, roadsides, riverbanks, riverbeds and gold tailings, beech forest, scrub, pine forest.

FEATURES

A perennial herb with erect stems to 15-75 cm tall, having long hairs. Leaves dull green and slightly paler or purplish underneath; 3-15 cm long x 2-7 cm wide; mostly confined to based of stem. Leaves have dense hairs above and often underneath, where long hairs are also present. Flowers occur on straight and erect stems with 2 to 7 bright yellow flower heads per stem. Flowers are never striped, unlike some other hawkweeds. Mainly flowers from Dec-Mar. Fruits are small, dry and black, containing only one seed, the pappus (sheath crowning the seed) is 6-7 mm long and is coloured off-white.

SIMILAR TAXA

H. lepidulum is very similar to *H. pollichiae*, but is easily recognised as its leaves are uniformly green rather than streaked with purple.

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

(November) - December - March - (May)

YEAR NATURALISED

1946

ORIGIN

C. and N. Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Perennial. Seed only, does not have stolons. Seed produced December to March. Seed is spread by wind, clothing and animal pelts.



Stevensons Island. Photographer: John Barkla



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TOLERANCES

Tolerates low rainfall and poor soils.

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.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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