

Pilosella praealta

COMMON NAME

king devil

SYNONYMS

Pilosella piloselloides subsp. *praealta* (Gochnat) S. Bräut. & Greuter,
Hieracium praealtum Gochnat

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Pilosella praealta (Vill. ex Cochn.) F.Schultz & Sch.Bip.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

HIEPRA

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of lowland, montane and subalpine habitats, grows in low fertility sites in shrubland, tussockland and riverbeds.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

FEATURES

Perennial herb 15-45 cm tall, with stolons. Leaves 5-12 x 1-1.5 cm, entire, smooth bluish-green to red, leaf underside hairless except on mid-rib and edges. 3-35 yellow flower heads per stem.

SIMILAR TAXA

The presence of stolons, multiple yellow flowers and hairs confined to midrib and margins beneath the leaf distinguish this species from all other *Hieracium* in NZ.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

(September) - November - March - (April)

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. The plant reproduces vegetatively from stolons that give rise to 0-15 new rosettes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seed is prolifically produced with approximately 1 000/dm squared. Probably no seed bank is formed and seed is dispersed by wind (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1924

ORIGIN

Europe



Siberia Valley, Mt Aspiring National Park.
Photographer: John Barkla

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

TOLERANCES

Highly tolerant of drought and frost; tolerant of poor drainage and intolerant of shade. Also highly tolerant to physical damage but intolerant to grazing.

ETYMOLOGY

pilosella: Softly hairy

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](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pilosella-praealta/>