

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Plant Abstract

Element Code: PDAST4W1A0

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Hieracium abscissum* Lessing
COMMON NAME: Rusby's hawkweed, Rusby hawkweed
SYNONYMS: *Hieracium rusbyi* Greene
FAMILY: Asteraceae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: E.L. Greene, Bull. Torrey Bot. Club. 9(5): 64. 1882.

TYPE LOCALITY: New Mexico: Mogollon Mountains.

TYPE SPECIMEN: HT: s.n. H.H. Rusby 177. Aug 1881. IT: GH 9033, NY 180049.

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: The genus *Hieracium* contains approximately 56 species in North America (Venning 1984); USDA, NRCS (PLANTS database, 2002) reports 47 species. Five species of *Hieracium* are recognized by Lehr (1978) as occurring in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: Herbaceous perennial that is leafy to the top, with erect stems up to 60 cm (24 in) tall, covered to the middle with wavy pubescence (long fine orangish hairs) and glabrous above; one to several stems persist after flowering. Basal and stem leaves are oblong to lanceolate, 5-10 cm long and 1.5-3 cm wide, with pubescence covering both surfaces (more below); basal leaves in a whorl. The inflorescence is loosely corymbose, minutely flocculent-tomentose, generally supporting up to 23 flowering heads incased in a woolly involucre of 12-14 bracts; involucre is 7-9 mm high. The corolla is yellow. The pedicels and bracts are covered with wavy hairs, are yellow, but not hispid.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: *Hieracium abscissum* differs from *Hieracium lemmoni*, in that, *H. abscissum* has an involucre 6 to 8 mm. high (vs.8-12 mm. high), the stems are rather sparse hirsute below (vs. copiously to densely long-hirsute below), and the leaves are entire or nearly so (vs. remotely denticulate with callus teeth) (Kearney et al 1960).

ILLUSTRATIONS: Line drawing of flower head (Rickett 1970: p. 748).
Color photo of Isotype specimen (H.H. Rusby, in NYBG at http://scisun.nybg.org:8890/searchdb/owa/wwwcatalog.detail_list?this_id=4389983)
Line drawing (B. Dennis, in Falk, Jenkins et al., 2001)
Color photo of habitat (TNC, in Falk, Jenkins et al., 2001)

TOTAL RANGE: Southeastern Arizona, the Mogollon range in New Mexico, and from Guadalupe y Calvo in Chihuahua, Mexico.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: From the Pinaleno Mountains in Graham County, and the Chiricahua and Huachuca mountains in Cochise County.

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

GROWTH FORM: Herbaceous perennial.

PHENOLOGY: Grows and flowers with late monsoon rains from July to August.

BIOLOGY:

HABITAT: Within mixed conifer forests at high elevations above 8,000 ft (2440 m). NatureServe (2003) report “Mountain slopes above 1830 m elevation.”

ELEVATION: 8,800 to about 9,300 feet (2682 – 2835 m). Above 8,000 ft (2438 m), (Falk, Jenkins et al., 2001).

EXPOSURE: Shade.

SUBSTRATE:

PLANT COMMUNITY: Mixed conifer forests. Associated species may include: *Pinus* (Pine), *Alnus* (Alder), *Quercus* spp. (Oak), and *Juniperus deppeana* (Alligator juniper).

POPULATION TRENDS: Taxa appears to be quite uncommon with only four collections from within the state, two from New Mexico, and one from Chihuahua, Mexico. Of the four known sites in Arizona, the Huachuca Mountains site is the only one that has been confirmed since 1990 (Falk, Jenkins et al, 2001).

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS: None
STATE STATUS: None
OTHER STATUS: Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3 1999)
[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region 3 1990]

MANAGEMENT FACTORS:**PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN:****SUGGESTED PROJECTS:**

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USFS - Coronado National Forest.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

*The western Texas plants may have been separated into *H. wrighti* (Rickett 1970).

The name *Hieracium* is from the Greek for “hawk.” An old belief held that the wonderful eyesight of hawks was due to swooping upon these plants. (Rickett 1970).

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