



## **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 *Alpestris* (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).
- iii) Secondary growth (i.e. after damage to the primary shoot) cannot be safely named, nor can plants 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 *Alpestris*. 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.