

HAWKWEEDS OF SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

Mike Shaw

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HAWKWEEDS OF SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

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BSBI Handbook No. 20

Hawkweeds of south-east England

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The book provides an identification guide to the 58 hawkweed (*Hieracium*) species which have been recorded in south-east England (Isle of Wight, Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent). It is written in a clear and accessible style and will appeal to botanists at all levels wishing to study this challenging and interesting group of plants.

The introduction includes sections on geographical coverage and data sources, history and taxonomy, evolution and reproduction, collection and preservation of specimens, habitats, cultivation, conservation, geology and soils.

A detailed chapter on hawkweed identification characters is followed by a list of species and a key to the eight hawkweed sections found in south-east England; each of these sections is further described with separate keys as appropriate.

Each of the 58 species accounts includes historical information, a comprehensive description, notes on status, habitats and flowering times, and diagnostic features to help separate it from related species. Distribution maps are given with details of some good sites to see each species.

Finally there is a glossary, references and index.

The book is in A4 hardback format with 250 pages. It is illustrated with over 400 colour photographs, including a typical herbarium specimen for each species, images of plant habitats and features with high-resolution macro-photographs of useful identification characters.

Please order the Handbook using the order form overleaf.

Section *Virgata*



Figure 177. *Hieracium pollicichae* Specimen from Chichester (v.c. 13) showing the dark blotching on the leaves. Scale bar 10 cm.

Section *Virgata*

22. *Hieracium pollicichae* Sch. Bip. Roffey's Hawkweed

The name *H. pollicichae* Sch. Bip. was first published in Koch (1853 p. 247), the year the plant was first discovered, with a description in Schultz (1855 p. 23). It has not been possible to trace a type specimen for the species.

UCHN threat category

Least Concern (Rich 2014, which was unfortunately not updated in McCosh & Rich 2018).

Description

LEAVES
Colour pale yellowish-green, brown-spotted above, more so in exposed conditions but sometimes unspotted in shade, so that the plant has a mottled appearance.
Basal few in a loose rosette, 5–12 x 2–5 cm, elliptical to oblong-elliptical or oblong-lanceolate, obtuse-mucronate to acute at apex, denticulate to dentate, sometimes with large, mammiform teeth, generally cuneate at base, with long petioles.
Stem-leaves 2–4, the lower usually large and similar to basal, acute at apex and often with large teeth, petiolate.

Indumentum all with stiff, eglandular hairs on both surfaces and the margins or nearly glabrous above.

INFLORESCENCE

Shape paniculate-corymbose.

CAPITULA 2–16, 30–35 mm in diameter (see notes).

PEDUNCLES

General appearance normally short; sub-erect or curved.

Indumentum dense stellate hairs, numerous, short to medium eglandular hairs and occasional glandular hairs.

PHYLLOARIES

Size up to 11 x 1.0–1.5 mm, pericarp in bud.

Apex more or less acute.

Indumentum numerous, medium to long eglandular hairs, few, short, dark glandular hairs, and a few stellate hairs near the base.

LIGULES yellow, glabrous.

STYLES discoloured.

RECEPTACLE PIT MARGINS subulate-dentate.

Native. Old walls, grassy roadside banks. Flowering from about the second week of June to mid-July.

Notes

Named after Johan Adam Pollich (1741–1780), German doctor, botanist and entomologist. Sell & Murrell (2006) gave the maximum number of capitula as eight, but many of the plants in Chichester, especially those on East Walls, have large inflorescences with up to 16 capitula as indicated in the above description.



Figure 176. *Hieracium pollicichae* Plants in wall-top habitat at Chichester (v.c. 13).