

HIERACIUM LONGIPILUM Torrey
Long-bearded Hawkweed

FAMILY: Asteraceae

HABIT: Perennial herb to 1.5 m.; flowering July, August; fruiting August-October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: *Hieracium* is a complex genus with many native and introduced species occurring in Ohio. *H. longipilum* is similar to many of these species, but especially *H. gronovii* and *H. scabrum*. It is distinguished by a combination of technical characters.

TOTAL RANGE: MI and IN to MN, KS, and OK.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Williams County. Pre-1980 records are from Fulton County.

HABITAT: Moist to dry, open to semi-open situations, usually in sandy soil: prairies, open woods, fallow fields; also along RR tracks.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody species as a result of succession; use of herbicides on RR rights-of-way.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good. It apparently colonizes disturbed habitats. Easterly and Fisher (1983) state that the Fulton County population is thriving and is spreading.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Mature flowering material is needed for positive identification. Count the number of flowers per head in fresh material, as this key character may be obscured by pressing.

COMMENTS: *H. longipilum* may be more frequent in the state than the single record indicates. It could easily be overlooked or misidentified due to its similarity to the more common *H. gronovii* and *H. scabrum*, which both may occur in the same habitat as *H. longipilum*. It should be sought in sandy areas of northwestern Ohio.

There is some question as to whether this species is a native element of the Ohio flora. The single 1979 collection from a Fulton County RR right-of-way suggests that it may be adventive from farther west. However, it is accepted as native in Indiana, Michigan, and southwest Ontario, and certainly the proper habitat existed in presettlement northwestern Ohio. It is here considered native to the Ohio flora pending further research.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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