

SENECIO PAUPERCULUS Michx.
Balsam Squaw-weed

FAMILY: Asteraceae (Compositae)

SYNONYMS: *Senecio balsamitae* Muhl. ex Willd.

HABIT: Perennial herb to 20 cm, often with short slender stolons; flowers and fruits May-July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species can easily be confused with several other members of the genus, especially with *S. plattensis*. Typical *S. pauperculus* can be distinguished by the following combination of characters: plants mostly glabrous at maturity; stems frequently loosely clustered; caudex short, horizontal and branching; cauline leaves much reduced; basal leaves lance-ovate to spatulate-oblongate; inflorescence loose with less than 20 heads.

TOTAL RANGE: Lab. to AK, s. to GA and OR.

STATE RANGE: There are post-1960 records from Erie, Geauga, Highland and Ottawa Counties.

STATE STATUS: 1980-1987: Potentially Threatened, 1988 to present: Threatened.

HABITAT: Usually on calcareous soils; especially cliffs, quarries and rocky shores near Lake Erie.

HAZARDS: Overshading by woody or other species as a result of succession.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Possibly good, this species appears to respond to disturbance and has become fairly common in some of the abandoned quarries on Kelleys Island and the Marblehead Peninsula.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete and mature specimens, including basal leaves and underground parts.

COMMENTS: *S. pauperculus* is one of the most widespread and complex species in the genus. Considerable intergradation occurs with several species that also occur in Ohio, including *S. anonymous*, *S. plattensis* and *S. aureus* (Barkley 1988). *S. pauperculus* and *S. plattensis* are known to intergrade throughout much of their shared range (Barkley 1963).

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Barkley, T.M. 1962. A revision of *Senecio aureus* Linn. and allied species. *Trans. Kan. Acad. Sci.* 65: 318-408.

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Barkley, T.M. 1978. *Senecio*. *N. Am. Flora. II.* 10: 50-139.

Barkley, T.M. 1988. Variation among the Aureoid *Senecios* of North America: a geohistorical interpretation. *Bot. Rev.* 54: 82-106.

Fisher, T.R. 1988. *The Dicotyledoneae of Ohio. Part 3. Asteraceae.* Ohio State Univ. Press, Columbus. 280 pp.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Division of Natural Areas and Preserves

Created: 4/1993 Greg Schneider
Database Code: SPNX.659