

Key to the Hawkweeds of South-East England

The following key was adapted by R.C.Stern from keys produced by Sell and West for Sussex and Kent Hieracia with certain additions. It covers all species known to occur in VC's 7-32 inclusive in 1984.

This edition has been updated with the current nomenclature as at 2003 by Arthur G. Hoare.

It is worth reproducing the points made by Sell and West with regard to the use of the keys to Hieracia:-

- i. Hawkweeds should be collected at their first flowering, i.e. when the first few flowers have opened. Species with 0-1 stem leaf should not be collected after the middle of June; those with 2-8 stem leaves should not be collected after mid-July; none should be collected after the end of August.
- ii. A complete plant of average size (including the basal leaves, but not the rootstock) should be selected.
- iii. The specimen must not be of secondary growth.
- iv. Plants infected by moulds, attacked by insects or mechanically damaged in any way should not be collected.

1. Stem leaves usually less than 8		2
1. Stem leaves usually more than 8		20
2. Plant clothed with viscid glandular hairs		3
2. Plant not clothed with viscid glandular hairs		4
3. Plant with glandular hairs only	H. amplexicaule	
3. Plant with glandular and simple hairs	H. speluncarum	
4. Leaves spotted or marbled		5
4. Leaves not spotted or marbled		7
5. Stem leaves 0-1	H. scotostictum	
5. Stem leaves 2 or more		6
6. Phyllaries dominantly glandular hairy with only an occasional simple hair.	H. maculatum	
6. Phyllaries dominantly simple hairy with only a few glandular hairs	H. pollichiae	
7. Stem leaves 0-1 (rarely 2)		8
7. Stem leaves more than 2		13
8. Phyllaries with glandular and simple hairs.	H. zygophorum	
8. Phyllaries with glandular hairs only		9
9. Stem leaves with dense stellate hairs beneath.	H. kentii	
9. Stem leaves without stellate hairs beneath.		10
10. Styles yellow when fresh; leaves of medium or small size.		11
10. Styles discoloured when fresh; of medium or large size.		12
11. Glandular hairs of phyllaries short and \pm equal in length leaves rather small, often \pm subentire.	H. sublepidoides	
11. Leaves of medium size, often with irregular purplish blotches and teeth near base shaped like a bird's claw.	H. severiceps	
12. Leaves ovate or ovate-oblong, markedly mammiform-dentate; glandular hairs of phyllaries long and short.	H. grandidens	

12. Leaves broadly ovate, subentire to sharply denticulate; glandular hairs of phyllaries short.	<i>H. cardiophyllum</i>	
13. Phyllaries with numerous glandular hairs, sometimes with occasional simple hairs		14
13. Phyllaries with numerous simple hairs, glandular hairs, in variable numbers.		17
14. Glandular hairs of phyllaries short, \pm equal and usually yellowish.	<i>H. cheriense</i>	
14. Glandular hairs of phyllaries longer and darker.		15
15. Glandular hairs of phyllaries very unequal and slender, stellate hairs on phyllaries absent or nearly so.		16
15. Glandular hairs of phyllaries robust, stellate hairs on phyllaries numerous.	<i>H. acuminatum</i>	
16. Leaves elliptic or ovate, \pm dentate, rigid; phyllaries usually no simple hairs.	<i>H. diphanum</i>	
16. Leaves long-elliptic to elliptic-oblong, shallowly dentate; phyllaries with a few simple hairs.	<i>H. diaphanoides</i>	
17. Leaves lanceolate.	<i>H. vulgatum</i>	
17. Leaves broadly elliptic or broadly ovate.		18
18. Phyllaries greyish-green; margins of phyllaries with dense stellate hairs.	<i>H. angustisquamum</i>	
18. Phyllaries dark or olive-green; margins of phyllaries with fewer stellate hairs.		19
19. Styles yellow; phyllaries obtuse.	<i>H. surrejanum</i>	
19. Styles discoloured; phyllaries acute.	<i>H. lepidulum</i>	
20. Phyllaries glabrous or nearly so.		21
20. Phyllaries with glandular or simple hairs or both.		24
21. Leaves linear, parallel sided.	<i>H. umbellatum</i> <i>ssp. umbellatum</i>	
21. Leaves ovate, ovate-lanceolate, lanceolate or elliptic		22
22. Leaves with revolute scabrid margins, subentire.	<i>H. umbellatum</i> <i>ssp. bichlorophyllum</i>	
22. Leaves without revolute scabrid margins, usually toothed.		23
23. Leaves lanceolate with long teeth.	<i>H. salticola</i>	
23. Leaves ovate, ovate-lanceolate or elliptic, usually with short teeth.	<i>H. vagum</i>	
24. Stem \pm glabrous; phyllaries with glandular hairs only.		25
24. Stem \pm hairy; phyllaries with simple and glandular hairs.		26
25. Leaves long-lanceolate, \pm regularly and minutely dentate.	<i>H. virgultorum</i>	
25. Leaves \pm ovate-lanceolate, sharply and irregularly dentate.	<i>H. rigens</i>	
26. Leaves denticulate or \pm dentate, plants usually with more than 15 (often more than 20) stem leaves, normally not flowering before mid-August.	<i>H. sabaudum</i>	
26. Leaves dentate (often deeply), only exceptional specimens with more than 15 stem leaves, plants beginning to flower at the end of June or beginning of July.		27

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|----|
| 27. Leaves narrow, elliptic-lanceolate, at least the lower ones more than 3 times as long as broad. | H. trichocaulon | |
| 27. Leaves broadly elliptic, usually not more than 3 times as long as broad. | | 28 |
| 28. Leaves usually large and flaccid, with broad \pm mammiform teeth. | H. cantianum | |
| 28. Leaves usually small and rather rigid, with sharp teeth. | | 29 |
| 29. Teeth of leaves regular; inflorescence normally corymbose of a few heads. | H. calcaricola | |
| 29. Teeth of leaves irregular; inflorescence usually an elongate panicle of numerous heads. | | 30 |
| 30. Inflorescence usually large with large hairy heads, receptacle pits with fimbriate margins. | H. eboracense | |
| 30. Inflorescence with medium, less hairy heads, receptacle pits incise-dentate. | H. cambricogothicum | |

Sections of named plants in the key:

Section Sabauda:

H. sabaudum
H. virgultorum
H. rigens
H. salticola
H. vagum

Section Hieacioides

H. umbellatum ssp. umbellatum
H. umbellatum ssp. bichlorophyllum

Section Tridentata

H. calcaricola
H. eboracense
H. cambricogothicum
H. trichocaulon
H. cantianum

Section Vulgata

H. pollichiae
H. vulgatum
H. lepidulum
H. surrejanum

Section Vulgata cont.

H. cheriense
H. acuminatum
H. diaphanoides
H. diphanum
H. maculatum

Section Hieracium

H. scotostictum
H. sublepistoides
H. severiceps
H. grandidens
H. cardiophyllum
H. zygophorum
H. kentii

Section Oreadea

H. angustisquamum

Section Amplexicaulia

H. speluncarum
H. amplexicaule