

You are viewing one of thousands of biographies – click below for more, including Search box and access to Plant associated organisations.

[Plant Biographies](#)

[Bibliography](#)

Packera aurea

[Synonyms : *Cacalia aurea*, *Cineraria balsamita*, *Senecio aureus*, *Senecio aureus* var. *aquilonius*, *Senecio aureus* var. *ashei*, *Senecio aureus* var. *aurantiacus*, *Senecio aureus* forma *aureus*, *Senecio aureus* var. *gracilis*, *Senecio aureus* var. *intercursus*, *Senecio fastigianus*, *Senecio gracilis*, *Senecio purshianus*]

GOLDEN RAGWORT is a perennial. Native to south-eastern North America, it has daisy-like brownish-centred, golden-yellow flowers.

It is also known as Cocash weed, Coughweed, Ebbens root, False valerian, Female regulator, Fireweed, *Goldenes Kreuzkraut* (German), Golden groundsel, Golden rod, Golden senecio, Groundsel, Ground swallow, Grundy swallow, Liferoot, Plunkum, Ragwort, Snakeroot, Squaw weed, Uncum, Uncum-piuncum, Waxweed, and Wild valerian.

Warning – SEE *Packera* GENUS entry.

Aurea means 'golden' with reference to the flowers.

Before or during childbirth North American Indian women used to drink a tea made from the plant, and some tribes also used it to treat haemorrhages and bruising. The Cherokee tribe used it as a contraceptive and to cause sweating. They also prescribed it for treating some blood problems, heart disorders, kidney ailments and fever (the latter in both adults and children). However it appears to have attracted little medicinal interest elsewhere although the plant was used in a homoeopathic remedy in 1875 and was recommended by herbalists particularly for treating tuberculosis, female ailments and diarrhoea.

Now golden ragwort is seldom chosen medicinally, not least because it has been implicated in cattle poisoning. There is however a very old remedy for genito-urinary problems which does include it that is still available on the United States' market.