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Picris hieracioides

[Synonyms : *Picris villarsii*]

HAWKWEED OXTONGUE is a biennial or perennial. Native to Asia and Europe it has small, dandelion-like heads of yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Bitterfibbla* (Swedish), *Bittermjölke* (Swedish), *Echt bitterkruid* (Dutch), *Gemeines Bitterkraut* (German), *Gewöhnliches Bitterkraut* (German), *Gorchak yastrebnikovyi* (Russian), *Gwylaeth yr Hebog* (Welsh), *Habichtskrautähnliches Bitterkraut* (German), *Habichtskrautartiges Bitterkraut* (German), *Habichtskraut-Bitterkraut* (German), *Hawkweed*, *Hořčík jeřábíkovitý* (Czech), *Keltanokitkerö* (Finnish), *Picride fausse épervière* (French), *Picris fausse-épervière* (French), and *Ru Bittermælk* (Danish).

It has been declared a noxious invasive weed in some parts of Australia and most states in the United States.

Hieracioides is made up of the genus name *Hieracium* and Greek *-oides* (like) components meaning 'like plants in that (hawkweed) genus'.

Locally the bitterish-tasting young leaves have been eaten raw as a vegetable or added as a flavouring to cooking food.

Medicinally, in Indo-China (the south-eastern peninsular of Asia) the bitter-tasting leaves have been used by local herbalists to ease fever.