

SUMMARY

Taxonomy, distribution and conditions of *Senecio erucifolius* L. occurrence in Poland

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The subject of this elaboration was a highly morphologically variable species of the genus *Senecio* L. – hoary ragwort *Senecio erucifolius* L., requiring the taxonomic revision in Poland. Twenty three populations of *Senecio erucifolius* were sampled to study morphological diversity of the species in Poland. Within the species two following subspecies were distinguished: subsp. *erucifolius* and subsp. *tenuifolius*. Biometric and statistical analyses allowed to identify the most important morphological features differentiating these subspecies. They included: the length of the upper lobe of the middle leaf, the width of the upper lobe, the width of the longest lateral lobe, the width of the upper lobe at the base, and the length of the tubular flower. The first distribution map of the species in Poland, taking into account intraspecific taxa, was developed. *Senecio erucifolius* subsp. *erucifolius* has currently only four stations in Pomerania. Other current localities in the number of 27, represent subspecies *tenuifolius*. They are found scattered in different regions in Poland with center of distribution falling in the Lubelskie and Świętokrzyskie voivodships. Phytocoenotic spectrum of this species occurrence in Poland was also defined. *Senecio erucifolius* subsp. *erucifolius* was found in patches of three plant communities of two classes: *Artemisietea vulgaris* and *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*, whereas subspecies *tenuifolius* was found in patches of eight communities of the following four classes: *Artemisietea vulgaris*, *Festuco-Brometea*, *Stellarietea mediae* and *Molinio-Arrhenatheretea*. For the first time, the ecological indicator numbers for *Senecio erucifolius*, including two subspecies were defined for Polish populations of the species. They show some diversity but it is the Index of continentalism which differs the most these two taxa. *Senecio erucifolius* subsp. *erucifolius* is an Atlantic taxon, which occurs in the western part of Poland. The other subspecies – subsp. *tenuifolius* is subcontinental taxon, occurring mainly in the eastern part of the country. The need of protection of the localities of *Senecio erucifolius* was underlined and the degree of threat of this species in Poland was assessed.

