

Villar d'Arène-col du Lautaret,
Hautes Alpes, France

31 July – 5 August, 2007



FIRST CIRCULAR

Dear colleagues,

we would like to invite you to the 10th *Hieracium* workshop. Based on our discussion in Trenta (2006), this workshop will be focussed primarily to the exploration of local *Hieracium* flora with the aim to help to R. Douzet in preparation of a regional Flora of Lautaret (see annex bellow), and informal discussions. No oral and poster presentation will form a part of the official programme, but one general lecture on the regional flora and on the Alpine Botanical Garden.

The workshop is for everyone with an interest in hawkweeds from professionals to enthusiasts, students and beginners.

The workshop will be held in the floristically very attractive region of the French Western Alps, in the region of the Col du Lautaret situated ca 60 km SW of Grenoble. From this area many *Hieracium* taxa were described, especially by Arvet-Touvet (see annex bellow).

Workshop location, lodging

The site of the workshop will be in “Le Pied du col”, a small settlement situated ca 2-3 km from the village of Villar d'Arène. All sessions will be held in the “Chalet du Combeynot”, where the hall and lodging have been booked. We tried to find cheap accommodation accessible for most of participants, although less comfortable. There are 5 beds rooms. The price for 1 person and 1 night is 12 EUR. It will be possible to order half pension (diner and breakfast) for extra 15 EUR. Free parking is nearby the chalet. In Pied du Col, there is also a small restaurant and small camping.

The details how to getting to Villar d'Arène will be announced in the 2nd circular (May-June).

Registration

We encourage completing and sending back (preferably by e-mail) the registration form before **15 March, 2007**. Workshop fee is 40 EUR (15 EUR for students and participants from the former USSR and Balkan countries), it will be paid at the registration. It includes a common workshop dinner, coffee break, information materials for field trips and location of the hall for discussions and studying the plant material. Unfortunately, we were not able to find a cheap common transport to the localities. Therefore, we will appreciate very much the help of people arriving by cars, and of course those without this possibility, to share the costs for this “familial” transport. Excursions will be done in close surrounding of the Col du Lautaret.

Preliminary programme

Three one-day field trips and one half-day visit of the Alpine Botanical Garden (including research facilities) in the Col du Lautaret are planned. Trip descriptions will be distributed within second circular.

We look forward to meet you at the workshop!

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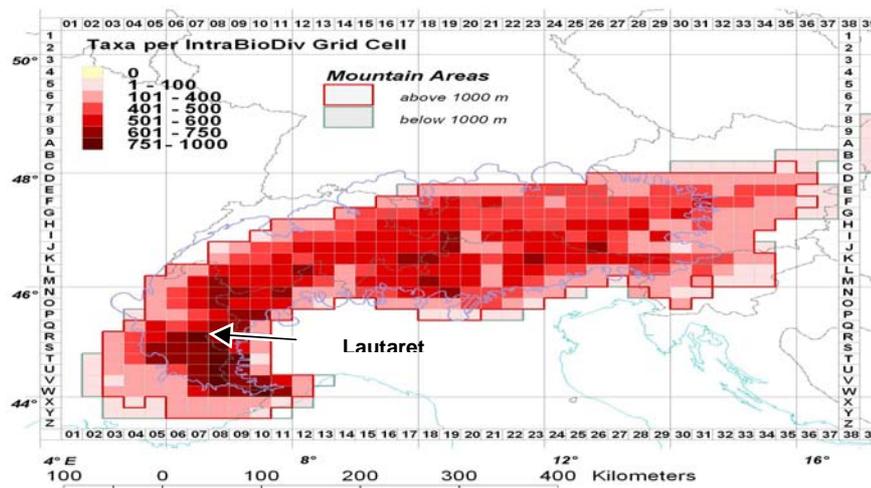
Annex: A survey of the genus *Hieracium* s.l. in the region of Lautaret (French Alps)

The Lautaret area is located in de South Western French Alps. It is centred around the Lautaret Pass (2058 m, latitude : 45° 02' N, longitude : 6° 24' E). Since the XVIIIth century the Lautaret area has been known for its botanical richness since the visit of Dominique Villars, the famous French botanist. More recently, botanists as C. Arvet-Touvet, G. Rouy or W. Rothmaler visited the place.

A quick inventory shows that more than 1500 species of vascular plants can be found 15 km round the pass, which represents a bit less than one third of the French flora. This richness has been confirmed by the recent European project INTRABIODIV. The map below shows clearly that the Lautaret area is one of the richest botanical areas of the Alps.

In this context the richness also concerns the genus *Hieracium* s.l. The literature shows that more than 600 taxa have been cited around the Lautaret pass. It is clearly too much, but the richness is certainly very high and can be evaluated at more than 100 taxa at specific level (*Hieracium* + *Pilosella*). In all cases the list needs a critical revision. That's why we ask for help to the specialists of the genus *Hieracium*. We would much appreciate any kind of help, advice, remarks etc.

The place has been prospected many time by various botanists (Arvet-Touvet, Ravaud, Rouy, B. de Retz) during the XIXth and early XXth centuries and many herbaria are available especially in Grenoble (Arvet-Touvet), Lyon (Rouy) and Gap (Ravaud), but no recent recordings have been made. The beginning of the writing of a local flora is a good opportunity to make a statement on the species and to evaluate their taxonomic value. Furthermore, many species have been described by C. Arvet-Touvet from the Lautaret area. Some groups are very well represented in the area such as *lanatum*, *bifidum*, *prenanthoides*, *pallidum*, *villosum*.



Species richness based on floristic distribution data of high-mountain taxa of the Alps (IntraBioDiv Consortium – unpublished preliminary data)

