

***Packera porteri*** (Greene) C. Jeffrey

Porter's butterweed  
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

**Status:** State Review Group 1

**Rank:** G4S1S2

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1955) Barkley (1996) and Trock (1999): *Packera porteri* is a 1-1/8 to 3-1/8 in. (3-8 cm) tall, hairy to glabrous, fibrous rooted perennial that arises from a slender, creeping rhizome. The leaves are basal, thick, typically kidney shaped, with rounded teeth along the margin, and are up to 1 in. (2.5 cm) wide. The leaf blades may taper to the petiole or be abruptly contracted. Some plants have winged petioles, while some do not. The plant may retain some of its juvenile pubescence into the flowering time, or it may be nearly glabrous at flowering. The flowers are borne on 2-1/8 to 3 in. (3-8 cm) long flower stalks that are leafless or with one or two minute bracts. The yellow flower heads are solitary and fairly large. The somewhat purplish involucre is commonly about 1/2 in. (1 cm) long.

**Identification Tips:** Within its range in Washington, *Packera porteri* closely resembles *P. cymbalaria*, and can be distinguished by the following. *P. porteri* is 1-1/8 to 3-1/8 in. (3-8 cm) tall, with flower stalks that are leafless, or with one or two minute bracts, while *P. cymbalaria* is 2 to 8 in. (5-20 cm) tall, with flower stalks that bear leaves. The flower stalks of *P. porteri* give rise to solitary flower heads, while the flower stalks of *P. cymbalaria* give rise to one or occasionally two flower heads

**Phenology:** In Washington the species was observed fruiting and flowering in late July.

**Range:** *Packera porteri* is known from Oregon, and Colorado, and is disjunct in Okanogan County, Washington.

**Habitat:** In Washington this species was found on an unglaciated nunatak (a hill or mountain once surrounded by glacial ice) in deposited volcanic sediments and shifting talus at 7800 feet (2377 m) elevation. Associated species include whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*), common juniper (*Juniperus communis*), and Davidson's penstemon (*Penstemon davidsonii*).

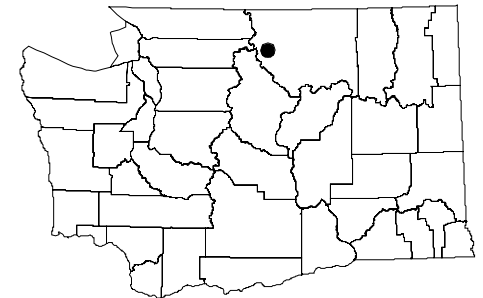
***Packera porteri***

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Illustration by Dr. John H. Rumely

Known distribution  
of *Packera porteri*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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**Ecology:** This species is typically found on high talus slopes. Although nunataks are scattered throughout the North Cascades, this is one of the few in deposited volcanic sediments, hence the soil type is unique.

**State Status Comments:** Because this species was recently added to the Washington rare plant list, not much is known about the degree of its rarity in the state at this time.

**Inventory Needs:** Cracks and crevices of nunataks in Washington should be systematically surveyed for additional populations. The known occurrence site should be revisited for updated population information.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** This species' habitat is unstable. No other threats are known.

**Comments:** Hitchcock et al. (1955) refer to *Packera porteri* (Greene) C. Jeffrey as *Senecio porteri* Greene, and *P. cymbalaria* as *Senecio resedifolius* Less.

**References:**

Barkley, Theodore. 1996. Personal communication to George Wooten. On file with WNHP.

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1955. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 343 pp.

Trock, Deb. 1999. Personal communication to George Wooten. On file with WNHP.