NOTEWORTHY COLLECTION

MICHIGAN

*Heracleum mantegazzianum* Somm. & Levier. (Apiaceae). Giant Cow Parsnip, Hogweed

**Previous knowledge.** This federally listed Noxious Weed (USDA-APHIS-PPQ 2000) is a native of the Caucasus region of Asia and was probably first brought to North America as a garden plant because of its striking size. Since at least the late 1940s, it has escaped from gardens and has been found along roads and streams in several states and provinces. Hyypio and Cope (1982) noted it was grown in Highland Park near Rochester, New York in 1917; escaped populations were known in 24 counties in western New York by 1982. Morton (1978) mapped it from 19 sites in southern Ontario. Case and Beaman (1992) described *H. mantegazzianum* being found in a field in Ingham County, Michigan in 1991. Elsewhere in the eastern United States it has been reported from Maine, Maryland, Pennsylvania (Hyypio & Cope 1982), and in 2001 from several sites in Connecticut and Massachusetts (Small 2002). It has been known since the 1960s in the Pacific Northwest, with collections known from Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia (Hyypio & Cope 1982, Rice et al. 2002).

**Significance.** The collections cited below appear to be the first records of the occurrence of *Heracleum mantegazzianum* in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In addition to the two collected populations, Mr. Zylinski (pers. comm.) noted there were additional plants about a mile from the Lowell Avenue site, suggesting its occurrence in the Ironwood area is more than just a casual introduction. The closest population I am aware of is on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, where it has been known since the early 1980s (Morton & Venn 1984). Given the large numbers of seeds that are produced, it seems very likely that it could be found in other areas around Ironwood, and quite possibly in neighboring Wisconsin. Since it is a Federal Noxious Weed, additional localities should be sought and, besides reporting them as new floristic finds, local USDA authorities should be contacted since containment and eradication efforts, e.g., English et al.’s (1999) description of 1998 efforts near Erie, PA, are required under the Federal statutes.

**Diagnostic characters.** The massive size of the plants is the most obvious feature; stems reaching two to possibly 4–5 m in height, large ternately-compound leaves with incised segments, and umbels reaching 50 cm in diameter and having up to 150 rays. The stems are blotched with purple, each “blotch” containing stiff bristles which can easily break off and cause skin irritation. Extreme caution should be used in handling the plant since the sap contains a chemical which can cause phytophotodermatitis; when the sap contacts moist skin, painful blistering can occur. In addition, if that area is then exposed to sunlight, the skin is darkened and sometimes permanently scarred (Hyypio & Cope 1982, Morton 1978).
The fruits resemble those of other species of *Heracleum* known in our region, but are larger and have wider resin canals (as illustrated in Morton 1978).


**LITERATURE CITED**


Rice, P.M. 2002. INVADERS Database System (http://invader.dbs.umt.edu). Division of Biological Sciences, University of Montana, Missoula, MT 59812-4824.


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