

Gnaphalium affine

Family: Asteraceae

Species: *Gnaphalium affine* D. Don

Common Names: haha-go-husa and houkogousa (Japan), mito kappa and hooki phu; (Bhutan)

Synonyms:

Pseudognaphalium affine (D. Don) Anderberg

Gnaphalium multiceps Wall. ex DC

Gnaphalium luteoalbum L. var. *multiceps* (DC.) Hook.f. (Grierson et al., 2001)

Gnaphalium confusum DC

Gnaphalium javanicum DC

Gnaphalium ramigerum DC

Laphangium affine (D. Don) Tzelev

Bayer Code: GNAAF

Description: Annual or biennial herb up to 40 cm high, often branched from the base, densely white-woolly. Leaves sessile, lanceolate to oblanceolate, obtuse, up to 6 cm long x 1 cm wide, tomentose on both surfaces. Flower heads 2–3 mm in diameter, arranged in dense terminal clusters. Phyllaries in 3–4 layers, up to 3 mm long, generally obtuse, corolla and bracts all golden yellow. Seeds slender, 0.5 mm long with pappus of white or yellow hairs 2–3 mm long.

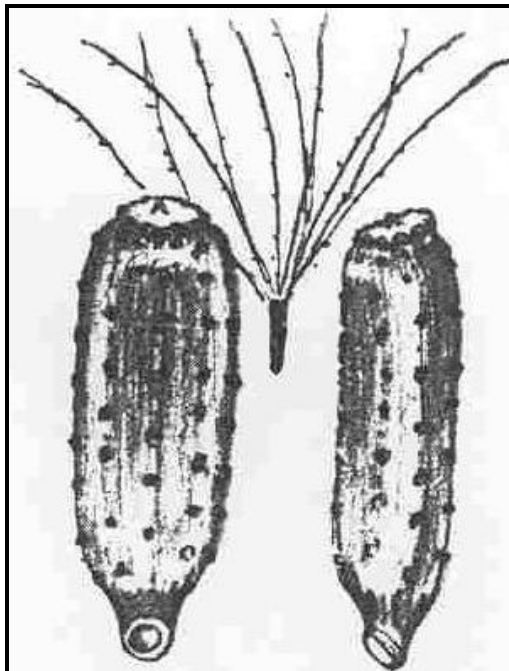


Figure 1. *Gnaphalium affine* from Reed (1977)

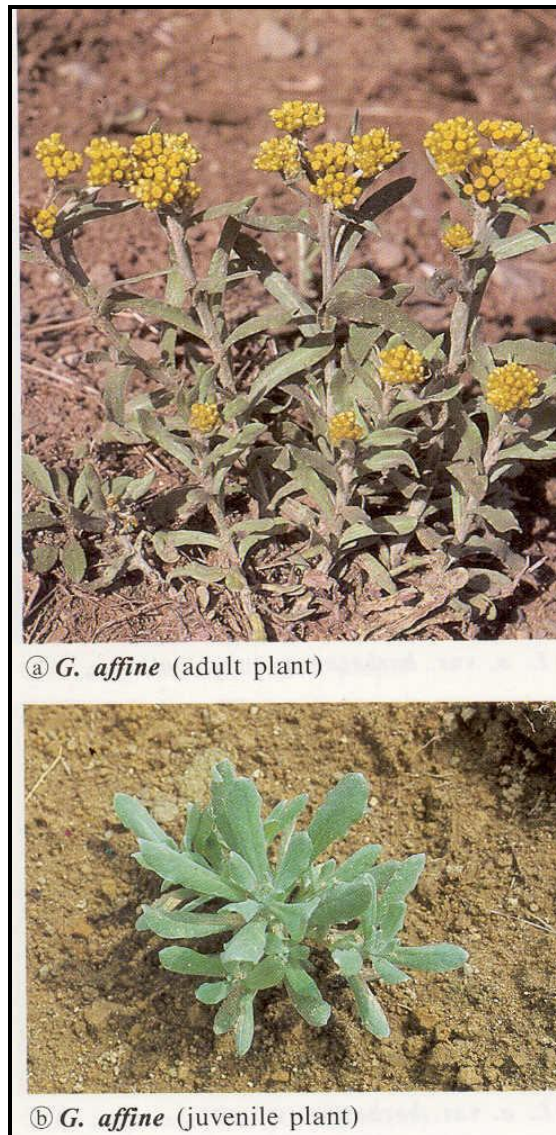


Figure 2. *Gnaphalium affine* from Morita (1997)

Distribution: *Gnaphalium affine* is native in Asia in the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, China, India, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam (Grierson et al., 2001; NGRP, 2002; Holm et al., 1979; Reed, 1977).

Native and Naturalized Distribution of *Gnaphalium affine* D. Don

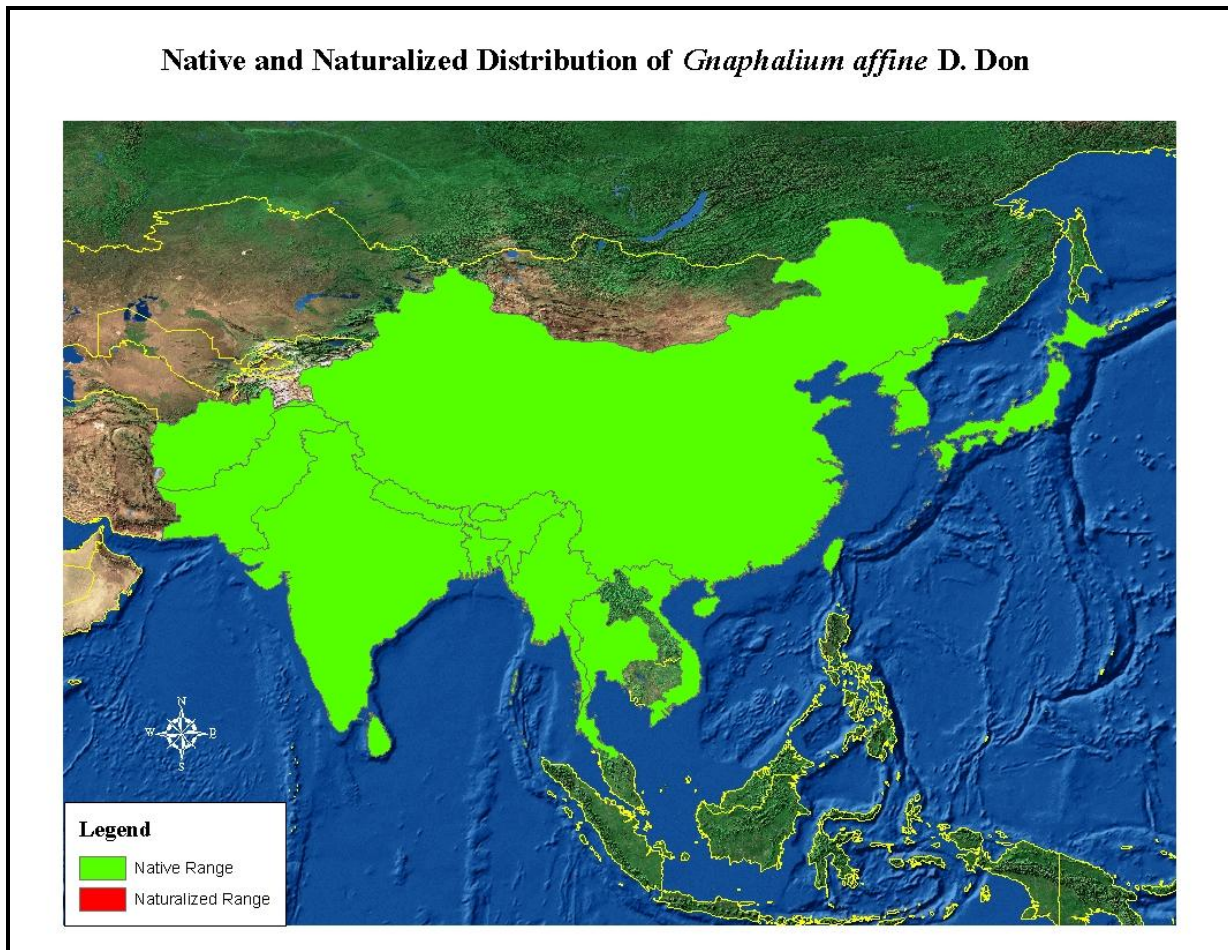


Figure 332. By Glenn Fowler, USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST, 2002 (Fowler, 2002)

Biology and Ecology: *Gnaphalium affine* is an annual or biennial weed of roadsides, fields, plantations, gardens, grassland, and waste land. Takahashi et al. (1995) claimed it had allelopathic effects on lettuce germination and seedling growth. It is also used medicinally in China under the name *Gnaphalium multiceps*. In Pakistan, it germinates in January to March and flowers and fruits from April to June.

Possible Pathways to the United States: As a crop weed, there is a significant risk of accidental introduction with crop seed and other agricultural produce. But there is additional risk of deliberate introduction as a medicinal herb.

Adverse Impact: *Gnaphalium affine* is categorized by Holm et al. (1979) as a “principal” weed in Japan, and a “common” weed in Taiwan. In Pakistan, Khalid (1995) describes it as an important weed of tea and common in wheat and vegetables. Ko et al. (1999) list it among five dominant weeds of pastures on Cheju Island, Korea. Reed (1977) notes that it is a “very harmful” weed in Japan. This species has a wide ecological adaptability and could be a highly undesirable introduction to the United States.

Literature Cited:

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