



Flowering heads of Butterweed.

BUTTERWEED

Senecio glabellus Poir.

Ragwort and Squaw-Weed are other common names for this annual species. The stems are hollow, purplish in color, and up to several feet in height. Lower leaves are large and pinnatifid but become smaller and often are only coarsely toothed upward. Stems terminate in clusters of bright yellow flowers. This is a weedy species that often dominates low fields in early spring, especially creek and river bottom-lands before planting. Ditches, wet woods, and swamps usually harbor an abundance of plants as well. The name *Senecio* is from *senex* (an old man), perhaps referencing the abundant white hairs present on many species. This species is quite smooth and devoid of hairs, as indicated by the species name (*glabellus*, meaning glabrous or smooth) (**Asteraceae**, the Aster Family).



Plant of Butterweed in a low field by the Cumberland River at Linton, Trigg County, Kentucky (LBL).