

Family Apiaceae *Heracleum maximum*

Heracleum maximum grows on every disturbed or edge environment here in Sitka, AK. It can be seen hugging sidewalks, sprouting on newly gravelled parking lots, and in this image (1) along the edge of a stream. Around it are similar plant colonizers like *R spectabilis*. The stem of *H maximum* is herbaceous (2) and the leaves attach to it in whorls and frequently sheath (2, 7, 8.) The leaves are simple, cleft (3), and serrate (5.) The entire plant is pubescent (6, 8) and these hairs contain photosensitive chemicals that can cause burns in sunlight.

H maximum has indeterminate floescence, arranged in umbels (2, 9). The individual flowers are perfect (11) and have a inferior ovary (12). They contain 5 petals, 5 stamen, and 2 central pistils (13, 12). The fruit is a schizocarp (14) that will make one seed and has parietal placentation (15.)