

Brachyglottis bidwillii

SYNONYMS

Senecio bidwillii Hook.f., *Senecio bidwillii* Hook.f. var. *bidwillii*, *Senecio viridis* Kirk nom. illegit., *Senecio bidwillii* var. *viridis* (Kirk) Cheeseman

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis bidwillii (Hook.f.) B.Nord.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

BRABID

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Leathery shrub forming extensive groves in subalpine areas. Leaves thick leathery, oval, dark green and with whiteish-tan down underneath. Flowers small, clustered at tips of branches, quickly becoming dry and papery. Old flower heads remain until next flowering season.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands - from Mount Hikurangi south

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine scrub and fellfield

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Compactly branched shrub up to 1.5 m. tall. Branches stout (slender in South Island); branchlets, petioles and inflorescence-branchlets clad in dense appressed soft white to buff tomentum. Leaves elliptic to obovate-oblong, very coriaceous, 2-7.5 × 1-2.5 cm., on stout petioles falling to leave prominent leaf-bases, glabrous and shining above, clad in dense appressed soft tomentum below, midrib and veins not prominent below. Panicles subcorymbose, up to 5 cm. diameter; capitula discoid, campanulate, up to 1.5 cm. diameter; phyllaries narrow-oblong, coriaceous, subacute, tomentose on back. Pistillate flowers 3-5; disk-florets numerous, deeply 5-lobed. Achenes linear-oblong, 3 mm. long, ribbed, glabrous; pappus-hairs stiff, white, up to 5 mm. long, barbellate.



Mt Ruapehu, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Tama Lakes, Tongariro. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

December - March

FRUITING

February – April

LIFE CYCLE

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”

bidwillii: Named after the botanist - John Carne Bidwill (born 1815 and died 16 March 1853)

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The South Island specimens formally known as *Brachyglottis bidwillii* var. *viridis* are generally larger in leaf size and stature than the North Island populations.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961 Flora of New Zealand. Volume I. Wellington, N. Z. pg. 756

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-bidwillii/>