

Picris burbridgeae

SYNONYMS

None. In the most recent New Zealand flora treatment all indigenous *Picris* have been referred to *Picris hieracioides* L. as species collected here once as a naturalised weed, and to which none of our indigenous species are closely related.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Picris burbridgeae S.Holzapfel

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

PICBUR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 10$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, PD, SO, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: EF, PD, SO, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: EF, PD, SO, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island (Te Pahi to the Huntly Basin, near Waihi and Rotorua Lakes area, as well as most of the Hauraki Gulf islands), Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island. Also eastern Australia, Norfolk Island, and the main island of Hawaii

HABITAT

Primarily on offshore islands or in coastal or lowland situations. Often on talus slopes. This species requires open ground and will not tolerate heavy shade. It has been collected from gravelled margins of roadsides and in gravel pits.



Mature plant of *Picris burbridgeae*, Motukino (Fanal) Island, Mokohinau Islands group. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Dec 2006. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual to perennial herb 0.5–1.2–(2) m tall. **Stem** basally woody, dark green to purple-green, branched from upper $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$. Indumentum of 2-hooked, bristly hairs, copious. **Leaves** yellow-green. **Rosette leaves** shortly petiolate, lamina 100–200 × 10–25 mm, narrowly lanceolate to ovate, entire or dentate; stem leaves lanceolate to narrowly lanceolate, entire or dentate, becoming smaller toward plant apex. **Lower stem leaves** 100–200 × 10–25 mm. **Upper stem leaves** 20–40 × 0.3–0.5 mm. **Terminal leaves** bract or thread-like. **Inflorescences** in corymbose panicles. **Capitula** numerous, 9–12 mm long, 5–6 mm diameter, with 30–45 sulphur yellow flowers. **Involucrum** of 28–40 bracts in 3–4 irregular outer and 2 inner rows, length of bracts increasing from outer to inner rows. **Bracts** with a single line of 2-hooked anchor or bifid hairs along midrib on outer surface. **Achenes** narrowly fusiform 4–5 mm long, 0.8–1.1 mm diam, tapering into short cusps. **Achene ribs** 20–35. **Pappus** 5–8 mm long, pappus rays 50–80.

SIMILAR TAXA

The stem and leaf indumentum of oxtongue (*Helminthotheca echioides* (L.) Holub) has 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-hooked anchor hairs and the hairs of the leaves arise from a conspicuous swollen base. The involucral bracts of the flowers are in two rows, with the five outer involucral bracts ovate to cordate, and the apex of the inner bracts feather-like. Unlike our indigenous oxtongues (*Picris* spp.) the achenes of the introduced oxtongue (*H. echioides*) are heteromorphic: the outer achenes, are larger, white, and pilose hairy; the inner shorter, dark-brown and glabrous. In our indigenous oxtongues (*Picris* spp.) the achenes are never heteromorphic.

FLOWERING

(July)–October–January–(May)

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

(August)–October–(June)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed which usually germinates within one to two months. A somewhat unusual plant that is unlikely to prove popular in cultivation, and it can become invasive in some situations.



THREATS

Habitat loss through coastal development, succession, displacement by weed invasion, it is also prone to accidental eradication because of its weedy appearance.

WHERE TO BUY

Plants can be seen at the Auckland Regional Council Botanic Gardens, at Manurewa, and at Auckland Zoo.

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

Picris burbridgeae differs from *P. angustifolia* DC chiefly by details of its involucre. In this species they are in 2–4 rows. The outer bracts are longer than  of the length of the innermost bracts, often almost as long as the inner bracts. The outer bracts are usually recurved and become distinctly squarrose and are either not as wide or wider than the inner bracts. The achenes are smaller (5–8 mm) and also the cusps (0.3–0.9 mm). The cusps is  – $\frac{1}{14}$ the total achene length.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Holzapfel & Lack (1993) and fresh specimens. Description subsequently published in de Lange et al (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Heenan PB, Norton DA, Rolfe JR, Sawyer JWD. 2010. Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch. 471 p.
Holzapfel S, Lack HW. 1993. New species of *Picris* (Asteraceae, Lactuceae) from Australia. *Willdenowia* 23: 181–191.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/picris-burbridgeae/>