Senecio glaucophyllus

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Senecio glaucophyllus Cheeseman

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 100

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp, St

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-west Nelson from Mt Burnett (Whakamarama Range) to the Pikikirunga and Arthur Ranges in the east).

HABITAT
Montane to alpine (300–1400 m a.s.l.). A calcicole confined to limestone, marble, dolomite-limestone, dolomite-marble and dolomite rock outcrops and boulderfalls. Usually found in open sites or in sparsely vegetated situations, sometimes in shrubland, often around cave entrances and sink holes (tomo).

Growing in a dolomite crevice, Mt Burnett, north west Nelson. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 16/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Mt Burnett, north west Nelson. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 16/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, glabrous, summer-green, glaucous, perennial herb up to 0.9 × 1.0 m. **Rootstock** woody. **Branches** arising from base, dying back to base in winter with new seasons growth arising from numerous shoots at or just beneath soil surface. **Stems** not or only sparingly branched, 0.15–1 m tall. **Lower stem leaves** shortly petiolate, petiole broad and tapering; lamina 20–30 mm long, glaucous above, paler beneath, oblanceolate, obovate, elliptic to almost rhomboid, apex obtuse to acute, base attenuate, margins serrate to sinuate-serrate, rarely sub-entire. **Mid stem leaves** similar up to 90 mm long, narrowing to a broad petiole or subamplexicaul to amplexicaul. Upper stem leaves much narrower and smaller, bases auriculate, auricles deeply lacerate or entire. **Inflorescences** terminal, of (1)–10–(15) capitula arranged corymbosely, overtopping leaves. **Involucral bracts** 5 mm long, linear. **Ray florets** 10–16, ligules 2–6 × 2–2.5 mm, bright yellow, linear ovate, ovate to oblong. **Disc** 5–8 mm diameter. **Cypsela** 2.5–3.5 × 0.5–0.7 mm, brown, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, slightly narrowed to or constricted below apex, base cuneate. **Ribs** broad and rounded; grooves deep, u-shaped; hairs retrorse in 1–6 rows, confined to grooves. **Pappus** 4.5–6.5 mm long, white.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically *S. glaucophyllus* is most likely to be confused with the type form of *S. banksii* Hook.f. which occupies similar habitats in the North Island, has similar glaucous to glaucescent leaves and flowers. However, *S. banksii* is in the North Island only, has smaller seeds (up to 3.0 × 0.6 cf. 3.5 × 0.7 mm) and a different chromosome number (2n = 60).

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

January–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Does best in a pot in soil enriched with lime. Inclined to be short-lived.

THREATS

Senecio glaucophyllus faces no apparent threats. However, it is known from very few places, and common at none. This very restricted distribution makes it highly susceptible to environmental change.

SUBSTRATE

Dolomite and Marble

ETYMOLOGY

senecio: From the Latin senex ‘old man’ (probably referring to the bearded seeds)
glaucophyllus: Blue or greyish/bluish leaves; having bloom on the leaves

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

TAXONOMIC NOTES

A very distinctive plant perhaps closely allied to *Senecio banksii* s.s. The *Senecio glaucophyllus* complex, including *S. matatini*, was revised by Liew et al. 2021. For more information on the group please refer to this paper (reference below)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008, modified by R Hindmarsh-Walls 06 Feb 2022. Description based on Ornduff (1960), Webb et al. (1988) supplemented by observations obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Liew C-S, Courtney SP, de Lange PJ, Pelser PB. 2021. Taxonomic realignment of *Senecio glaucophyllus* (Asteraceae; Senecioneae) necessitates a new name for a widespread New Zealand species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 59(3)*: 376–396. https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2020.1866030.

Ornduff R. 1960. An interpretation of the *Senecio lautus* complex in New Zealand. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand 88*: 63–77.

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-glaucophyllus/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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