

# Senecio pokohinuensis

## COMMON NAME

Mokohinau groundsel

## SYNONYMS

*Senecio repangae* subsp. *pokohinuensis* de Lange et B.G.Murray

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Senecio pokohinuensis* (de Lange et B.G.Murray) de Lange

## 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 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, EF, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Mokohinau Islands, in the north eastern Hauraki Gulf, North Island, New Zealand

## HABITAT

A species usually associated with sites of active sea bird nesting or roosting. It is often associated with the burrows of diving petrels, grey-faced petrels and storm petrels. On Pokohinu (Burgess) Island it also extends into former pasture, and is present as a weed in the remnants of the old light house settlement. In forested areas within sites of recent wind-throw it is often found as an early colonist.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, sparingly branched annual to short-lived perennial herb 0.2-1.2 m tall, arising from a stout woody rootstock. Foliage dull glaucous green. Leaves sparsely pilose hairy on undersides only otherwise glabrous; basal leaves cuneately narrowed or shortly petiolate, broadly elliptic-oval or rhomboidal, coarsely toothed, rarely lyrate-pinnatifid. Mid cauline leaves amplexicaul, usually deeply bifid at base, narrow, ovate, elliptic, lanceolate or oblong, pinnately lobed 1-2-pinnatifid with segments lanceolate to oblong, entire or few-toothed, gradually diminishing in size up stem, becoming apetalate. Uppermost leaves smaller, lanceolate, dentate or pinnatifid. Supplementary bracts 5-9, narrow, 2-5 mm long; lower most usually dentate; margins often slightly villous, apex villous. Capitulum cylindrical; involucre bracts 12-20, narrowly lanceolate, 6-9 mm long, glabrescent, with purple-black villous apices. Ray florets 8-14, evenly spaced; ligules 3-6 mm, sulphur yellow; margin involute; apex recurved, incised 3-4 times. Disc yellow 4-5 mm diameter. Cypsela subcylindric, 2.5-3 mm long, grey, slightly narrowed at apex, covered in hairs, but hairs distinctly denser toward apices and between ribs.



Burgess Island, Mokohinau. Photographer: Terry Greene, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Senecio repangae* de Lange et B.G.Murray is similar differing mainly by its dark green, heavily pilose-hairy foliage, urceolate involucre, longer involucral bracts, and fewer (up to 9) ray florets which are involute, recurved, deeply incised, and widely and irregularly spaced (for more information see de Lange & Murray (1998) and de Lange et al. (2022)).

## FLOWERING

Throughout the year

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

Throughout the year

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Prefers full sun. Can become invasive.

## THREATS

A narrow range endemic confined wholly to the Mokohinau Islands group

## ETYMOLOGY

**senecio:** From the Latin senex 'old man' (probably referring to the bearded seeds)

**pokohinuensis:** Derived from "Pokohinu" which is te reo Maori for the type locality for the species, Pokohinu (Burgess Island), and possibly also the name for the island group, known as the "Mokohinau" Islands - a name regarded as a misnomer by the tangata whenua of the islands, Ngati Rehua.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description based on de Lange & Murray (1998).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Murray, B. G. 1998: *Senecio repangae* (Asteraceae): a new endemic species from the north-eastern North Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 36(4): 509-519

de Lange, P.J.; Pelsner, P.B.; Liew, C-S.; Marshall, A.J. 2022: *Senecio pokohinuensis* (Asteraceae), a new combination for an endemic species of Mokohinau Islands, Hauraki Gulf (Tikapa Moana o Hauraki), northern Te Ika a Maui / North Island, Aotearoa / New Zealand. *Ukrainian Botanical Journal* 79(3): 125-129. <https://doi.org/10.15407/ukrbotj79.125>

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Senecio pokohinuensis* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-pokohinuensis/>