

Senecio repangae

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio repangae de Lange et B.G.Murray

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, PD, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (offshore islands in the north-east only, from Wakatehāua Island to Cuvier Island (Repanga Island)).

HABITAT

Strictly coastal. A species of mainly offshore islands where it grows in the immediate vicinity of seabird colonies (gulls, shags, petrels, diving petrels). Also an opportunist on islands colonising sites where trees have fallen, pasture, and even behaving as a minor weed within lighthouse settlements.

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 dark grey-green. **Leaves** pilose hairy; 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** subcylindric; involucre bracts 9–17, narrowly lanceolate, 8–14 mm long, glabrescent, with purple-black villous apices. **Ray florets** (0)–3–9, widely and irregularly spaced; ligules 1–2 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.



Cuvier Island (October). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cuvier Island. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Senecio pokohinuensis is similar differing by its glabrescent, glaucous foliage, cylindrical involucre, shorter involucral bracts, and ray florets (up to 14 c.f. 9 in *S. repangae*) which are not recurved, and are evenly spaced (de Lange et al. 2022). *Senecio repangae* had previously been included with *S. lautus*, from which it differs in its sparingly branched, erect growth form, non-succulent foliage, greater number of involucral bracts (9–20 cf. 11–13), longer bracts (6–14 mm cf. 4–7 mm), shorter ligules (1–4 mm cf. 5–9 mm) and grey, subcylindric rather than black, narrowly cylindrical cypselae. *Senecio repangae* has $2n = 100$ chromosomes and *S. lautus* $2n = 40$.

FLOWERING

September–March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

September–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Prefers full sun. Can become invasive. Despite its weedy nature it makes an excellent pot plant.

THREATS

Aside from Cuvier Island (Repanga Island) where it is abundant, this species is very uncommon and is known only from small, widely scattered populations. In some locations where this species was found in the late 1980s and early 1990s it has now declined.

ETYMOLOGY

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

repangae: Taken from 'Repanga' which is te reo Maori for Cuvier Island the type locality of the species.

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) and de Lange et al. (2022).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange PJ, Murray BG. 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.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1998.9512591>.

de Lange PJ, Pelsner PB, Liew C-S, Marshall AJ. 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

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MORE INFORMATION

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