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
2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
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

FEATURES
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.
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

MORE INFORMATION