Brachyglottis kirkii var. kirkii

COMMON NAMES
kohurangi, Kirk's daisy, oro

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DPT
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Fleshy small green usually epiphytic shrub bearing large white daisy-like flowers. Twigs reddish-purple, brittle, with old leaf scars. Leaves, shiny, fleshy, with a few large lobes on margin. Flowers with long white radiating petals around a yellow centre, clustered together.

Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/12/2009, Licence: CC BY.

FLOWER COLOURS
White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
A spring flowering, usually epiphytic shrub to 1.5 m tall with purple stems and grey bark developed on old wood. **Leaves** 40–100 × 20–40 mm, fleshy, variable in shape, usually toothed in upper ⅓, hairless, upper surface pale to dark green, often tinged maroon, undersides paler. **Flowers** 30 × 40 mm diameter, borne in dense inflorescences of 3–20 flowers, the individual daisy-like flowers have white petals (rays). **Fruits** dry, windborne, dandelion structures.

Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 30/12/2009, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA
A very distinctive species. However, because it is usually epiphytic and so often well out of reach, plants could be confused with the epiphytic *Pittosporum kirkii* and *P. cornifolium*. These pittosporums have leathery leaves, non-daisy like flowers and round fruits which split to reveal hard black seeds embedded within sticky gum.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (locally scattered throughout).

HABITAT
An epiphyte of lowland to lower montane forest, sometimes terrestrial.

THREATS
This plant is intolerant of browse and targeted by possums, goats and deer.

GENUS
Brachyglottis

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Brachyglottis kirkii (Kirk) C.Webb var. kirkii

SYNONYMS
Senecio kirkii var kirkii Hook.f ex Kirk; Urostemon kirkii var. kirkii (Kirk) B.Nord., Senecio neo-zeylandicus Druce, Senecio glastifolius Hook.f. nom. illegit.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
August–October

FRUITING
October–December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings but, as a rule, difficult to maintain in cultivation.

PLANT OF THE MONTH
This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for October 2006 for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY
brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”
kirkii: After Thomas Kirk (18 January 1828 - 8 March 1898), a NZ botanist and lecturer in natural sciences and regarded as a leader of botanical enquiry in NZ for over three decades. One of his most significant publications was Forest flora of NZ (1889) but he also contributed over 130 papers to the Transactions and Proceedings of the NZ Institute and other journals.

NVS CODE
BRAKVK

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP
2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP
2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP
2004 | Serious Decline
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, RR Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland” Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Newhook FJ. 1943. Variation in *Senecio kirkii* Hook.f. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand 72*: 341–346. https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TPRSNZ1942-72.2.7.27.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): Brachyglottis kirkii var. kirkii Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-kirkii-var-kirkii/ (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-kirkii-var-kirkii/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026