

Brachyglottis pentacopa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare wiry shrub inhabiting only Mt Percy in the Wairarapa. Leaves yellow-green, paler underneath, margin toothed and very wavy, on a grooved stalk. Flowers daisy-like with yellow, rounded, radiating petals, in loose clusters.

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mildly aromatic flowering shrub 1-2 × 2.5 metres. **Trunk** stout, bark pale to dark grey, peeling in small flakes or shards. **Branchlets** numerous, spreading, slender and wiry, leaves terminally crowded. **Leaf buds** pubescent. **Petioles** slender, 8-15 mm long, grooved. **Leaves** leathery, slightly bullate, (31-)35-38(-43) × (-21)23-26(-29) mm, elliptic to broadly elliptic or occasionally broadly oblong-elliptic, margin upper 2/3 to 3/4 crenate to serrate, wavy (particularly when young), apex obtuse, dark green, to yellow-green with paler undersides, upper surface glabrescent except for pubescent veins, undersides usually covered in cotton-like tomentose. **Inflorescences** a dense terminal corymb. **Capitula** 4-25, turbinate, borne on pubescent pedicels. **Ray florets** 4-5, ligules elliptical, yellow, 4.6-5.0 × 7.3-8.5 mm, apex minutely emarginate. **Disc florets** 7-9, corolla 5 lobes, translucent yellow, anther orange-yellow, stigma yellow. **Phyllaries** 6-8 linear, base truncate, pale grey green, abaxially pubescent, margins scarious, persistent after seed maturity becoming woody. **Seed** a cypsela, obovate-elliptic, 3 angled, 3.2-3.5 mm long, yellowish-brown, pappus-hairs stiff, 4-5.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Brachyglottis perdicioides* which has elliptic to broadly elliptic, rarely broadly oblong-elliptic leaves with undersides usually covered in sparse “cobb webbed” hairs. The capitula of *B. perdicioides* usually have 1-3 ray florets rather than the usual 5 ray florets on the capitula of *B. pentacopa*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. **North Island**, only known from Taraoneone | Mt Percy in the Eastern Wairarapa

HABITAT

Lowland (300-450 m.a.s.l.), specialist of Kanuka understory. Thrives in well-drained high wind-flow regime, plants in damp situation suffer from leaf mould which eventually leads to the plant succumbing due to lack of ability to photosynthesize and die.



Mount Percy, eastern Wairarapa. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Percy, Wairarapa. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Ungulate browsing. Work is being undertaken to fence out the deer in the area to prevent further reduction in spread, and aid survival of the next generation and re-planted eco-sourced specimens.

GENUS

Brachyglottis

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis pentacopa (D.G.Drury) B.Nord.

SYNONYMS

Senecio 'Mt Percy' G. Park: Senecio pentacopus D.G.Drury

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December-January

FRUITING

January-March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from semi-hardwood cuttings. Does best in full sun. Benefits from a hard prune after flowering.

In cultivation at the Otari-Wilton's Wellington Botanical garden, it has been reported to be very difficult to grow and make happy enough to get to a flowering stage (*Pers. comm.* T. Belworthy, 2025).

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning "short" and glottis meaning "the vocal apparatus of the larynx"

NVS CODE

BRAPEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

DG Drury. 1973. Annotated key to the New Zealand shrubby senecioneae-compositae and their wild and garden hybrids, *New Zealand Journal of Botany*, 11(4), pp. 731-784. DOI: 10.1080/0028825X.1973.10430309

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013). Fact sheet completed by M. Ward for NZPCN (9 December 2025)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-pentacopa/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026