

Brachyglottis rotundifolia var. ambigua

COMMON NAMES

Handsome Charleston Tree Daisy

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Large leathery shrub inhabiting coastal shrub in the central West Coast. Leaves leathery, 4–10cm long, widest part of leaf towards tip, dark green and glossy, whiteish underneath. Flowers a white furry body with a yellowish tip in loose leafy clusters at tips of twigs.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or tree up to 3 m or more tall. Branches, stout, grooved; branchlets and inflorescence-branchlets clad in dense pale buff to whitish tomentum. Leaves less coriaceous, entire, broadly obovate to elliptic-oblong, midrib and main veins prominent below; glabrous above, clad in dense appressed tomentum below; lamina 70–150 x 30–60 mm on stout grooved petiole up to 50 mm long. Panicles up to 200 mm long, lower bracts foliaceous. Capitula campanulate, up to 10 mm diameter, discoid, on stout tomentose pedicels. Phyllaries linear, obtuse, coriaceous, woolly-tomentose on back. Female flowers few, disk-florets numerous. Achenes angled, 2.5 mm long, linear-oblong, glabrous or with sparse hispid hairs; pappus-hairs up to 6 mm long, rigid, barbellate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Brachyglottis rotundifolia var. *rotundifolia* which is a shrub to tree up to 6 m; has leaves which are obliquely broadly oblong to suborbicular (40–100 × 40–90 mm) and very coriaceous; and only found in the southern South Island, Stewart and Solander Islands.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island. Westland: Cape Foulwind to Barrytown.

HABITAT

Coastal banks and scrub, inland low scrubland.

GENUS

Brachyglottis

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis rotundifolia var. *ambigua* (Cheeseman) B.Nord.

SYNONYMS

Senecio rotundifolia var. *ambigua* Cheeseman, *Senecio reinoldii* var. *ambiguus* (Cheeseman) Allan



ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December–January

FRUITING

January–February

ETYMOLOGY

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

rotundifolia: Round leaf; from the Latin rotundus and folium

ambigua: From the Latin ambiguus ‘ambiguous, uncertain’

NVS CODE

BRARVA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

2009 | Not Threatened

2005 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961).

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-rotundifolia-var-ambigua/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026