

Senecio antipodus

COMMON NAME

Antipodes groundsel

SYNONYMS

Senecio radiolatus subsp. *antipodus* (Kirk) C.Webb

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio antipodus Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, DP, EF, IE

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, EF, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Antipodes Islands only

HABITAT

Coastal to upland (0 - 330 m a.s.l.) where it nearly always found in the vicinity of seal haul outs and sea bird nesting grounds/colonies. Another indigenous plant whose ecology seems tied to guano enriched systems.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual to short-lived, stout, grey-green to dark green, fleshy, erect perennial herb. Leaves mostly lanate when young, maturing glabrate or glabrous above, but remaining lanate beneath, base amplexicaul, cuneate; lamina 30-250 x 20-120 mm, dark grey-green, silvery-grey or dark green above, paler beneath, ovate to suborbicular, pinnately lobed to pinnatisect with many narrow to broad, lanceolate entire or deeply jagged-toothed segments. Uppermost leaves smaller, less divided, narrow-obovate, broadly tapering to base. Supplementary bracts and calycular bracteoles variable, 3-16, 1.5-8 mm long. Involucral bracts 13-20, 4-9 mm long, glabrate. Ray florets absent. Disc yellow, 5-15 mm diameter. Cypsela 2.0-3.0 mm long, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, narrowed to and often slightly constricted below apex, base cuneate; ribs broad, rounded with narrow u-shaped grooves, hairs very-short, papillate, mostly restricted to grooves with a very sparse covering sometimes present elsewhere. Pappus caducous, 5-7 mm long.



Senecio antipodus plants in full flower. Antipodes Island. Photographer: David M. Houston, Date taken: 12/12/2022, Licence: CC BY.



Senecio antipodus - flowering plants growing on windswept cliff tops. Antipodes Island. Photographer: David M. Houston, Date taken: 12/12/2022, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Senecio radiolatus* from which it differs by its eradiate (discoid) capitula (i.e. it lacks ray florets), and slightly smaller, less obviously hairy seeds. Both species seem closely allied to *S. sterquilinus* from which they differ by their more erect growth habit, smaller flowers, and consistently lanate-hairy leaves. As *Senecio antipodus* has never been part of published phylogenetic study, and the relationships between the Latusoid *Senecio* is complex, and best resolved by phylogenetic studies (Liew et al. 2018), species rank is here preferred over subspecies.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed but intolerant of humidity and warm climates. Short-lived and rather difficult to maintain except in cooler climates.

THREATS

A narrow range endemic of restricted distribution. However common within its island habitat

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 11 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988) supplemented with information obtained from herbarium material.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Liew, C-S.; Memory, A.E.; Ortiz-Barrientos, D.; de Lange, P.J.; Pelsner, P. 2018: The delimitation and evolutionary history of the Australasian Latusoid group of *Senecio* (Asteraceae: Senecioneae). *Taxon* 67(1): 130-148.

<https://doi.org/10.12705/671.8>

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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