Senecio antipodus

COMMON NAMES
Antipodes groundsel

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: CD, DPS, DPT, EF, IE
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow



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.

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.

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.

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.

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

GENUS
Senecio

FAMILY
Asteraceae

AUTHORITY
Senecio antipodus Kirk

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

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November - January

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.

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, DP, EF, IE
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL, EF, IE
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Liew, C-S.; Memory, A.E.; Ortiz-Barrientos, D.; de Lange, P.J.; Pelser, P. 2018: The delimitation and evolutionary history of the Australasian Lautusoid 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.

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.
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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-antipodus/

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