

# Senecio carnosulus

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, EF

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual or short-lived perennial, somewhat fleshy herb. **Stems** prostrate, semi-erect to erect, often spreading laterally from some distance, particularly in well established plants. **Leaves** glabrous or glabrescent, if the latter then with scattered hairs on midrib and lamina margins (particularly near base); apetiolate, narrow-oblong to elliptic or obovate, amplexicaul, usually pinnatifid with 1–3 broad, few-toothed segments on either side, sometimes not lobed but serrate with 1–8 teeth on each side, 20–90 × 5–45 mm; uppermost leaves smaller, narrower, and often less divided. **Supplementary bracts** 4–10, 1–4 mm long. **Involucral bracts** 11–16, glabrous, 5–9 mm long. **Capitulum**: ray florets (0)–7–11; ligules yellow, 1–4 mm; disc yellow, 4–8 mm diameter. **Cypselae** 2.8–3.5 mm long, grey-black, usually more or less evenly covered in dense hairs (sometimes outer most cypselae almost glabrous), slightly narrowed to apex.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Closely allied to *Senecio lautus* Willd., and *S. sterquilinus* Ornduff. It differs from *S. lautus* by its larger stature, and much more stocky, stout, succulent stems and foliage, broader leaf segments, longer involucral bracts, wider discs and shorter rays. *Senecio sterquilinus* is quite similar but it is usually an even larger plant, with a strictly erect rather than prostrate to semi-erect or erect growth habit, typically with more divided leaves and 13–24 rather than 10–16 involucral bracts. *Senecio carnosulus* has  $2n = 80$  chromosomes rather than  $2n = 40$  seen in *S. lautus* and *S. sterquilinus*.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only. Banks Peninsula then from the Otago Peninsula south and across to Stewart Island/Rakiura.

## HABITAT

Coastal on rock stacks, cliff faces, amongst boulders and on cobble/ coarse gravel beaches. Sometimes on consolidated sand or clay banks. Often in association with sea bird roosts and nesting sites.

## THREATS

An apparently naturally uncommon, sporadically occurring species. At times it can be locally common but there is evidence to suggest it has declined from parts of its range, particularly around the Otago Peninsula although reasons for decline are not well understood.

## GENUS

Senecio



North Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Cauline leaves (from a specimen collected by John Barkla). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/01/2012, Licence: CC BY.

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Senecio carnosulus* (Kirk) C.Webb

## SYNONYMS

*Senecio lautus* var. *carnosulus* Kirk, *Senecio lautus* subsp. *carnosulus* (Kirk) Ornd., *Senecio lautus* var. *alpha* Cheeseman

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November–February

## FRUITING

December–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Best treated as an annual. It can become invasive.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## NVS CODE

SENCAR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CI, DPR, DPS, DPT, EF, NStr, PF, RR, Sp, TL  
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The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988). 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.

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **PDF DATE**

25 May 2026