

Senecio colensoi

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (east coast from Hawke's Bay south to Cape Turnagain, extending inland to Lake Taupo).

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio colensoi Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Senecio colensoi Hook.f. var. *colensoi*, *Senecio colensoi* var. *lobulatus*

Allan, *Senecio colensoi* var. *obtusifolius* Allan

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Most botanists now include *Senecio colensoi* within *S. banksii* but the published evidence for this is wanting, i.e. no formal study of this species pair has been presented, just an opinion based on a brief examination of herbarium specimens (Webb et al. 1988). As such until a proper, critical study of the two species is undertaken it seems prudent to retain them as distinct, especially as in the field both species are easily distinguished and have been found growing sympatrically. *Senecio colensoi* differs from *S. banksii* mainly by the leaves which are densely covered with silvery-white lanate hairs. It is also a smaller, less heavily branched plant.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ETYMOLOGY

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

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

NVS CODE

SENCOL



Te Mata Peak. Photographer: Mike Lusk, Date taken: 01/10/2008, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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27 May 2026