

Senecio glaucophyllus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, glabrous, summer-green, glaucous, perennial herb up to 0.9 × 1.0 m. **Rootstock** woody. **Branches** arising from base, dying back to base in winter with new seasons growth arising from numerous shoots at or just beneath soil surface. **Stems** not or only sparingly branched, 0.15–1 m tall. **Lower stem leaves** shortly petiolate, petiole broad and tapering; lamina 20–30 mm long, glaucous above, paler beneath, oblanceolate, obovate, elliptic to almost rhomboid, apex obtuse to acute, base attenuate, margins serrate to sinuate-serrate, rarely sub-entire. **Mid stem leaves** similar up to 90 mm long, narrowing to a broad petiole or subamplexicaul to amplexicaul. Upper stem leaves much narrower and smaller, bases auriculate, auricles deeply lacerate or entire. **Inflorescences** terminal, of (1)–10–(15) capitula arranged corymbosely, overtopping leaves. **Involucral bracts** 5 mm long, linear. **Ray florets** 10–16, ligules 2–6 × 2–2.5 mm, bright yellow, linear ovate, ovate to oblong. **Disc** 5–8 mm diameter. **Cypsel** 2.5–3.5 × 0.5–0.7 mm, brown, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, slightly narrowed to or constricted below apex, base cuneate. **Ribs** broad and rounded; grooves deep, u-shaped; hairs retrorse in 1–6 rows, confined to grooves. **Pappus** 4.5–6.5 mm long, white.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically *S. glaucophyllus* is most likely to be confused with the type form of *S. banksii* Hook.f. which occupies similar habitats in the North Island, has similar glaucous to glaucescent leaves and flowers. However, *S. banksii* is in the North Island only, has smaller seeds (up to 3.0 × 0.6 cf. 3.5 × 0.7 mm) and a different chromosome number (2n = 60).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-west Nelson from Mt Burnett (Whakamarama Range) to the Pikipirunga and Arthur Ranges in the east).

HABITAT

Montane to alpine (300–1400 m a.s.l.). A calcicole confined to limestone, marble, dolomite-limestone, dolomite-marble and dolomite rock outcrops and boulderfalls. Usually found in open sites or in sparsely vegetated situations, sometimes in shrubland, often around cave entrances and sink holes (tomo).

SUBSTRATE DETAILS

Dolomite and Marble



Growing in a dolomite crevice, Mt Burnett, north west Nelson. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 16/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Burnett, north west Nelson. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 16/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

Senecio glaucophyllus faces no apparent threats. However, it is known from very few places, and common at none. This very restricted distribution makes it highly susceptible to environmental change.

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio glaucophyllus Cheeseman

TAXONOMIC NOTES

A very distinctive plant perhaps closely allied to *Senecio banksii* s.s. The *Senecio glaucophyllus* complex, including *S. matatini*, was revised by Liew et al. 2021. For more information on the group please refer to this paper (reference below).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November–January

FRUITING

January–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Does best in a pot in soil enriched with lime. Inclined to be short-lived.

ETYMOLOGY

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

glaucophyllus: Blue or greyish/bluish leaves; having bloom on the leaves

NVS CODE

SEGLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 100

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp, St

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Liew C-S, Courtney SP, de Lange PJ, Pelser PB. 2021. Taxonomic realignment of *Senecio glaucophyllus* (Asteraceae; Senecioneae) necessitates a new name for a widespread New Zealand species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 59(3): 376–396. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2020.1866030>.
- Ornduff R. 1960. An interpretation of the *Senecio lautus* complex in New Zealand. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 88: 63–77.
- 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, modified by R Hindmarsh-Walls 06 Feb 2022. Description based on Ornduff (1960), Webb et al. (1988) supplemented by observations obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-glaucophyllus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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