

Senecio glomeratus subsp. glomeratus

COMMON NAME

fireweed

SYNONYMS

Erechtites glomerata DC. nom. illegit., *Senecio argutus* A.Rich. nom. illegit., *Erechtites arguta* (A.Rich) DC., *Erechtites quadridentata* var. *traversii* Allan

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio glomeratus Desf. ex Poir. subsp. *glomeratus*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

SENGLO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands.
Present in Australia

HABITAT

A weedy species of disturbed ground. Predominantly coastal and lowland but does extend to the subalpine zone. Tolerant of water logged and very dry habitats



Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

FEATURES

Annual to short-lived perennial herb to 2 m tall. Stems erect or ascending to erect, moderately coarse-hairy, becoming sparsely coarse-hairy and/or appressed cottony or nearly glabrous upwards. Mid stem leaves more or less evenly spaced and sized, 50-200 mm long, dark glaucous green to dark green, elliptic to narrow-elliptic, length:width (l:w) ratio 2-7, coarse-dentate to deeply lobate, rarely not dissected, semiamplexicaul; margin with scattered or frequent denticulations or teeth; both surfaces usually coarse-hairy but commonly coarse hairs sparse or absent above mid stem; lower surface green or purple, above mid stem appressed, woolly, cobwebby or more or less glabrous. Uppermost leaves narrow-elliptic, lanceolate or linear, l:w ratio 3-10; dentate or margin appearing entire due to rolling. Unit Inflorescences of many capitula; total number of capitula per stem often 50-300, over topping variable; mature lateral peduncles mostly 4-13 mm long. Calycular bracteoles of capitula 6-12, 1.0-3.0 mm long; peduncle and margin of bracteoles cobwebby to densely woolly at anthesis; involucre 3.0-6.0 x 1.5-2.5 mm; involucre bracts 12-14, glabrous or basally slightly cobwebby, apex erect; stereomes (on drying) gently to moderately convex, green, black at apex, sometimes with a purple zone 1 mm long immediately below tip, sometimes entirely purple. Florets 26-50, c.80% female, dark sulphur yellow; corolla-lobes deltoid, thickened apically; corolla of bisexual florets 3.5-6.5 mm long, 5-lobed; corolla-lobes of female florets 2-4, mostly 0.2-0.3 mm long; corolla-limb commonly deeper cleft on inner face. Cypsela narrow obloid to narrow-ellipsoid, sometimes slightly clavate, < 1/3 of involucre bract length (1.0-1.7 mm long), commonly all medium to dark red-brown, with papillose hairs in lines or narrow bands, l:w ratio of hairs 3; pappus usually > 5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive and well marked species not easily confused with any other *Senecio* species present in New Zealand. The dark glaucous-green, elliptic, usually deeply toothed leaves with often dark purple undersides, distinctive coarse to cobwebbed hairs, and dark sulphur yellow florets serve to distinguish it. This species hybridises with *S. hispidulus* and *S. quadridentatus*.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year but most plants peak in summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

Late summer to early winter but can present all year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can become invasive

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Rather variable, and in Australia two subspecies (*subsp. glomeratus* and *subsp. longifructus*) are now recognised. Chatham Island plants differ consistently from mainland specimens in having less divided often broader leaves and shorter capitula. They warrant further study.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 July 2005). Description based on Thompson (2004).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thompson, I.R. 2004: Taxonomic studies of Australian *Senecio* (Asteraceae): 1. The disciform species. *Muelleria* 19: 101-214.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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