

Senecio hauwai

COMMON NAME

Marfells groundsel, Clifford Bay groundsel

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio hauwai Sykes

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

SENHAU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: ST

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough, White Bluff to Marfells Beach.

HABITAT

A strictly coastal species of steep-sided, calcareous (papa) mudstone/siltstone cliff faces and canyons.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, prostrate to weakly ascending herb of calcareous siltstone (papa) cliffs. Plants basally woody otherwise subsucculent. Leaves sparsely hairy when young, glabrate, apetiolate, cuneate; 12-30 x 5-12 mm, dark green to purple-green above, usually purple beneath, elliptic-oblong to oblanceolate, deeply pinnatifid to 1-pinnate; segments 6-10-12, narrow-oblong, few-toothed or entire. Uppermost leaves similar but smaller and less divided. Supplementary bracts and calycular bracteoles 3-7, 2-3 mm long. Involucral bracts 11-13, 4-5 mm long, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Ray florets 0, disc 5-9 mm diameter, pale yellow. Cypsela 4.0-5.5 mm long, orange-brown to brown, narrowly oblong to narrowly oblong-elliptic, slightly narrowed at apex, ribs broad and rounded; grooves narrow, papillate hairs short, retrorse, in 1-2 sparse rows in grooves.



Ex. Marfells Beach. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to the *S. glaucophyllus* Cheeseman complex from which it differs by its discoid capitula and chromosome number ($2n = 60$ cf. $2n = 100$). *Senecio glaucophyllus* subsp. *discoideus* is however, quite similar. It can be distinguished by its restriction to montane and alpine scree and open stony ground, smaller erect growth habit, less divided leaves, and chromosome number ($2n = 100$ cf. $2n = 60$ in *S. hauwai*). The *S. glaucophyllus* complex is in critical need of revision.

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, rooted pieces and semi-hardwood cuttings but short-lived and difficult to maintain. Best in a pot or planter box in full sun, with a free draining, lime enriched soil.

THREATS

A narrow range endemic, whose habitat is vulnerable to weed invasion and is naturally erosion prone. Populations can fluctuate in size and extent over short periods of time.

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2008). Description based on Sykes (1987).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Sykes, W. R. 1987: A new species of *Senecio* from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 25: 611-613.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Senecio hauwai* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-hauwai/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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