

# Senecio hauwai

## COMMON NAMES

Marfells groundsel, Clifford Bay groundsel

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## GENUS

Senecio

## FAMILY

Asteraceae



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

## AUTHORITY

Senecio hauwai Sykes

## SYNONYMS

None

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - March

## 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.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for June 2023](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## NVS CODE

SENHAU

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: ST

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## 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/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026