

Senecio marotiri

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect annual to short-lived perennial herb. Leaves lanate hairy when young becoming sparsely hairy or glabrous with age; lowermost leaves elliptic, long-cuneate, serrate with 3-7 teeth on each side; mid cauline leaves oblanceolate to linear-oblong, remotely dentate, 50-120 x 4-15 mm; uppermost leaves smaller, lanceolate, amplexicaul, entire or few-toothed. Supplementary bracts 9-12, 1.5-3 mm long. Involucral bracts 10-13, glabrous, 6-8 mm long. Ray florets 8-11; ligules yellow, 1-2 mm long. Disc yellow, c.4-5 mm diameter. Cypsela 2.8-3.2 mm long, densely hairy between ribs, tapering at both ends.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Senecio australis* (Forst f.) Willd. with which it occasionally grows in the wild. From *S. australis*, *S. marotiri* differs by its basal leaves which are lanately hairy to sparsely elliptic to broadly elliptic, rarely 1-pinnate but never lyrate-lobed, and glabrescent leaves, stems and capitula which are never covered in fine cobwebby arachnoid hairs, by the cylindrical rather than urceolate (vase-shaped) capitula, much longer (6-8 cf. 5-6 mm long) and fewer (10-13 cf. 9-15) involucral bracts, and distinctly tapering cypsela. While nrDNA ITS sequences place *S. australis* in the lautusoid group, *S. marotiri* is placed outside that group, as the sister species to *S. quadridentatus* Labill.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island. Known from several islands in the Bay of Islands, the Poor Knights, Chickens, Mokohinau, Great Barrier and several eastern Coromandel Islands. Recently (2006) discovered on South East (Rangitira) Island in the Chatham Island group. Naturalised in Mt Albert, Auckland.

HABITAT

Strictly coastal. An opportunistic species frequenting sea bird colonies, boulderfalls, coastal turfs, cliff ledges, petrel scrub, pasture, and on smaller islands clearances within tall forest.

THREATS

Not threatened, but rather a naturally uncommon species of sporadic distribution.

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae



In cultivation ex Motukino (Fanal Island).
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
19/07/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Motukino (Fanal Island).
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
03/11/2008, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Senecio marotiri C.J.Webb

SYNONYMS

None

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Despite its superficial similarity to the *S. lautus* complex, nrDNA ITS sequences place it as sister species to *S. quadridentatus* Labill. and *S. dunedinensis* Belcher. Its seeds (cypsela) are very similar to those of *S. quadridentatus*. Not closely allied to *S. australis* Willd., which is part of the *S. lautus* complex

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - February

FRUITING

October - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and can become invasive. Best treated as an annual. Prefers full sun, and is cold sensitive

ETYMOLOGY

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, EF, NStr, RR
[Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J. 1988: Notes on the *Senecio lautus* complex in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 26: 481-484.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988) supplemented by observations obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material

Some of this factsheet information is derived from [Flora of New Zealand Online](#) and is used under a [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026