

Senecio marotiri

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio marotiri C.J.Webb

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

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.

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.



Inflorescence, ex cult. Mutokino (Fanal) Island, Mokohinau Islands, 1998. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



Taken at Motumorirau. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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 cobbwebby 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.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

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

THREATS

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

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

TAXANOMIC 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

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

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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