

Senecio matatini subsp. basinudus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, glabrous, dark green to glaucescent, perennial herb up to 0.9 × 1.0 m. Rootstock woody. Branches arising from base, mostly persistent, in some populations dying back in winter. **Stems** sparingly to much branched, 0.10–1 m tall. **Lower stem leaves** more or less evenly spaced and sized; shortly petiolate, petiole broad and tapering; lamina 100–300 mm long, dark green to glaucescent above, oblanceolate, lanceolate to elliptic to narrow-elliptic to pinnatifid, very coarse-dentate or lobate; main segments 2–6 extending for much of length, tending to be smaller toward apex, deltoid to lanceolate, apex obtuse to acute, base auriculate, with auricles divided, semiamplexicaul. **Mid stem leaves** similar but often more deeply divided, up to 600 mm long. **Upper stem leaves** narrower and smaller, bases auriculate, auricles deeply lacerate or entire. **Inflorescences** Unit—subterminal to terminal, of (4)–6–(12) capitula arranged subcorymbosely, overtopping variable. **Involucral bracts** 4.3–5.0 mm long, linear to linear-lanceolate. **Ray florets** 10–16 or absent, when present ligules 2–3.5 × 1.6–1.8 mm, bright yellow, linear ovate, ovate to oblong. **Disc** 4–6 mm diameter. **Cypsel** 2.5–3.5 × 0.5–0.8 mm, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to oblong-elliptic, slightly narrowed to or constricted below apex, base cuneate; ribs broad and rounded; grooves deep, u-shaped; hairs conspicuous, retrorse in 1–6 rows, confined to grooves. **Pappus** 4.5–6.5 mm long, white.

SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive plant which, beyond the shared chromosome number ($2n = 100$), has little obvious resemblance to *Senecio matatini* subsp. *matatini*. *S. matatini* subsp. *basinudus* has narrower darker green to glaucescent leaves and fewer-flowered inflorescences with smaller capitula. The seeds are somewhat broader than subsp. *matatini* and notably more hairy. *S. matatini* subsp. *basinudus* is a basicole favouring basalt and basaltic-andesite volcanics. Plants considered to be it at Cape Campbell appear to be another, probably related but undescribed entity. They differ by their smaller size, more deeply lobed to pinnatifid leaves, and larger flowers.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Banks Peninsula to the Otago Peninsula).

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland, usually on basalt to basaltic-andesite rocks. Favouring exposed cliff faces and associated talus, boulder field. Occasionally found on sand and sand dunes near cliff faces.



Discoid form, coastal scrub/rank grassland, Potato Point, Purakaunui. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 02/05/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Discoid form, coastal scrub/rank grassland, Potato Point, Purakaunui. Photographer: Alex Fergus, Date taken: 02/05/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

THREATS

No apparent threats. A narrow-range endemic of limited geographic distribution.

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio matatini subsp. *basinudus* (Ornduff) Courtney, de Lange & Pelsner

SYNONYMS

Senecio lautus var. $\varnothing$; *raoulii* Hook.f., *Senecio glaucophyllus* subsp. *raoulii* (Hook.f.) Ornduff, *Senecio glaucophyllus* subsp. *basinudus* Ornduff

TAXONOMIC NOTES

The *Senecio glaucophyllus* complex, of which *S. matatini* is one representative, was revised by Liew et al. (2021). For more information on the group please refer to this paper (reference below).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–March

FRUITING

December–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. An attractive perennial for a sunny spot. Excellent for rock walls or rockeries and very good in a pot.

ETYMOLOGY

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

matatini: Te reo Māori adjective for ‘complicated’ and both an adjective and noun for ‘composite’ and ‘complex’. It alludes to the complicated nature of the historical and current taxonomy of the *Senecio glaucophyllus* complex, and to the daisy family to which it belongs

NVS CODE

SENMSB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 100$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: CI, DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, RR, Sp Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Liew C-S, Courtney SP, de Lange PJ, Pelser PB. 2021. Taxonomic realignment of *Senecio glaucophyllus* (Asteraceae; Senecioneae) necessitates a new name for a widespread New Zealand species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 59(3): 376–396. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2020.1866030>.
Ornduff R. 1960. An interpretation of the *Senecio lautus* complex in New Zealand. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 88: 63–77.
Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008, modified by R Hindmarsh-Walls 6 Feb 2022. Description based on Ornduff (1960), Webb et al. (1988) supplemented by observations obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material
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MORE INFORMATION

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

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