

Senecio radiolatus subsp. radiolatus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, IE

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual to short-lived, stout, grey-green to dark green, fleshy, erect perennial herb. Leaves mostly lanate when young, maturing glabrate or glabrous above, but remaining lanate beneath, base amplexicaul, cuneate; lamina 30-250 x 20-120 mm, dark grey-green, silvery-grey or dark green above, paler beneath, ovate to suborbicular, pinnately lobed to pinnatisect with many narrow to broad entire or few-toothed segments. Uppermost leaves smaller, less divided, narrow-obovate, broadly tapering to base. Supplementary bracts and calycular bracteoles variable, 3-16, 1.5-8 mm long. Involucral bracts 13-20, 4-9 mm long, glabrate. Ray florets 10-20, ligules dark yellow, 1.5-8 mm long. Disc yellow, 5-15 mm diameter. Cypsela 2.2-3.5 mm long, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, narrowed to and often slightly constricted below apex, base cuneate; ribs broad, rounded with narrow u-shaped grooves, hairs medium-length, retrorse, more or less evenly distributed or occasionally restricted to grooves. Pappus caducous, 5-7 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Senecio antipodus is somewhat similar but has less divided leaves, discoid capitula (i.e. lacking ray florets), and smaller (2.0-3.0 cf. 2.5-3.5 mm long), glabrescent seeds with minutely papillate hairs mostly confined to the grooves. *Senecio sterquilinus* has recently been recognised on the Chatham Islands, and is superficially similar to *S. radiolatus*. From *S. radiolatus*, *S. sterquilinus* differs by its smaller widely branching habit, glabrescent stems and leaves which lack lanate hairs. The seeds of *S. sterquilinus* are very similar to *S. radiolatus* but not *S. antipodus*. As *Senecio antipodus* has never been part of published phylogenetic study, and the relationships between the Latusoid *Senecio* is complex, and best resolved by phylogenetic studies (Liew et al. 2018), species rank is here preferred over subspecies for *S. radiolatus* and *S. antipodus*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Chatham Island group only

HABITAT

Found on dunes and other coastal sites, such as in crevices where there is little soil, or on bouldery beaches. It is typically associated with the nesting sites of sea birds, and has been found on the lagoon-shore limestone cliffs.



Abaxial surface of cauline leaf. In cultivation ex Chatham Islands. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/11/2013, Licence: CC BY.



Capitulum showing involucral bracts. In cultivation ex Chatham Islands. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/11/2013, Licence: CC BY.

THREATS

Threatened by loss of its coastal habitat, loss of seabird colonies and browsing by introduced animals (including insects and molluscs).

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio radiolatus F.Muell. subsp. radiolatus

SYNONYMS

Senecio radiolatus F.Muell. subsp. radiolatus, Senecio lautus var. radiolatus (F.Muell.) Kirk

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - May

FRUITING

November - June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Short-lived but very attractive and easily grown. Does best in a moist, very fertile (high N, P, K) soil in full sun. Trials in the early 1990s at Percy Reserve and Petone proved that it is very attractive plant ideal for an annual border

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

SENRSR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: IE, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: IE, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Relict | Qualifiers: IE, RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Liew, C-S.; Memory, A.E.; Ortiz-Barrientos, D.; de Lange, P.J.; Pelser, P. 2018: The delimitation and evolutionary history of the Australasian Lautusoid group of Senecio (Asteraceae: Senecioneae). *Taxon* 67(1): 130-148.

<https://doi.org/10.12705/671.8>

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 11 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988) supplemented with information 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 radiolatus* subsp. *radiolatus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-radiolatus-subsp-radiolatus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026