

Senecio wairauensis

COMMON NAMES

mountain fireweed

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Usually montane to alpine as a ground plant in forest, scrub or in open ground. Also common along stream sides, lake margins and in bogs. May also grow in tussock grassland. In the southern part of its range it also grows near the coast.

GENUS

Senecio

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio wairauensis Belcher

SYNONYMS

Erechtites glabrescens Kirk nom. illegit., *Erechtites prenanthoides* var. â minor Hook.f., *Erechtites wairauensis* (Belcher) Allan var. *wairauensis*, *Erechtites wairauensis* var. *robusta* Allan

TAXONOMIC NOTES

A very variable species but several well marked races which probably warrant formal taxonomic rank. There is some independent support for this based on nrDNA ITS sequences

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Can become invasive. Not an overly interesting or attractive garden subject.



Mt Luxmore, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 17/03/2012, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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ETYMOLOGY

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

wairauensis: Of the Wairau Valley

NVS CODE

SENWAI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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27 May 2026