

Senecio carnosulus

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual or short-lived perennial, somewhat fleshy herb. **Stems** prostrate, semi-erect to erect, often spreading laterally from some distance, particularly in well established plants. **Leaves** glabrous or glabrescent, if the latter then with scattered hairs on midrib and lamina margins (particularly near base); apetiolate, narrow-oblong to elliptic or obovate, amplexicaul, usually pinnatifid with 1–3 broad, few-toothed segments on either side, sometimes not lobed but serrate with 1–8 teeth on each side, 20–90 × 5–45 mm; uppermost leaves smaller, narrower, and often less divided. **Supplementary bracts** 4–10, 1–4 mm long. **Involucral bracts** 11–16, glabrous, 5–9 mm long. **Capitulum:** ray florets (0)–7–11; ligules yellow, 1–4 mm; disc yellow, 4–8 mm diameter. **Cypsela** 2.8–3.5 mm long, grey-black, usually more or less evenly covered in dense hairs (sometimes outer most cypsela almost glabrous), slightly narrowed to apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closely allied to *Senecio lautus* Willd., and *S. sterquilinus* Ornduff. It differs from *S. lautus* by its larger stature, and much more stocky, stout, succulent stems and foliage, broader leaf segments, longer involucral bracts, wider discs and shorter rays. *Senecio sterquilinus* is quite similar but it is usually an even larger plant, with a strictly erect rather than prostrate to semi-erect or erect growth habit, typically with more divided leaves and 13–24 rather than 10–16 involucral bracts. *Senecio carnosulus* has $2n = 80$ chromosomes rather than $2n = 40$ seen in *S. lautus* and *S. sterquilinus*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only. Banks Peninsula then from the Otago Peninsula south and across to Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Coastal on rock stacks, cliff faces, amongst boulders and on cobble/ coarse gravel beaches. Sometimes on consolidated sand or clay banks. Often in association with sea bird roosts and nesting sites.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, EF

THREATS

An apparently naturally uncommon, sporadically occurring species. At times it can be locally common but there is evidence to suggest it has declined from parts of its range, particularly around the Otago Peninsula although reasons for decline are not well understood.

DETAILED TAXONOMY



North Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Cauline leaves (from a specimen collected by John Barkla). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 16/01/2012, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio carnosulus (Kirk) C.Webb

SYNONYMS

Senecio lautus var. *carnosulus* Kirk, *Senecio lautus* subsp. *carnosulus* (Kirk) Ornd., *Senecio lautus* var. *alpha* Cheeseman

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

November–February

FRUITING

December–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Best treated as an annual. It can become invasive.

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

SENCAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 80$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, EF, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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. Description based on Webb et al. (1988). 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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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