

Senecio radiolatus subsp. radiolatus

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio radiolatus F.Muell. subsp. *radiolatus*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

SENRSR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2004 | Range Restricted

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.

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. Cypselas 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.



Point Gap (Chatham Islands). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kaingaroo, Chatham Islands. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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*.

FLOWERING

October - May

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

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 the tit is very attractive plant ideal for an annual border

THREATS

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

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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.

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 Latusoid 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. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

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/>