

Senecio wairauensis

COMMON NAME

mountain fireweed

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio wairauensis Belcher

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

SENWAI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

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.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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



Berts stream, Wairau, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

ETYMOLOGY

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

wairauensis: Of the Wairau Valley

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

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

MORE INFORMATION

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