

Brachyglottis adamsii

SYNONYMS

Senecio adamsii Cheeseman, *Senecio pachyphyllus* Cheeseman nom. illegit.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis adamsii (Cheeseman) B.Nord.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

BRAADA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Grey bushy subalpine shrub bearing obvious clusters of yellow daisy flowers. Young growth sticky. Leaves grey, leathery, furry underneath, margins curved, on 1-2cm long stalk. Flowers 2cm wide, bright yellow, with yellow radiating petals.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands from Mt Holdsworth south to the mountains of north Marlborough and Nelson.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine 1100-1600 m, shrubland and fellfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much-branched shrub up to 1 m or more tall; viscid on young branchlets, leaves and inflorescence. Leaves close-set on branchlets; lamina 25-55 x 10-20 mm, coriaceous, glabrous and somewhat rugose above, clad below in dense white to pale buff appressed tomentum, elliptic to obovate-oblong, obtuse; margins entire, revolute; petiole 10-20 mm long, widened to persistent sheathing base. Inflorescence loosely subcorymbose on peduncle approximately 2-3 mm. diameter, with few foliaceous bracts. Capitula 5-15, up to 20 mm diameter; phyllaries narrow-oblong, subacute, ciliate on margins and with tuft of hairs at apex. Ray-florets 10-15; ligules yellow, spreading. Achenes 3.5 mm long, sub-compound, grooved, pubescent, becoming glabrous; pappus-hairs up to 6 mm. long, finely barbellate.



Mt Peel, Nelson Lakes, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *B. revoluta*, which is a smaller shrub (up to 0.5 m high); leaves are larger (33-60×20-30 mm), less sticky, and thinner; geographically only co-existing in the deep south (not present in North Island).

FLOWERING

January-February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

February-March

LIFE CYCLE

Pappate achenes are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”

adamsii: Named for James Adams (1839-1906) an exceptional amateur botanist who established the Thames High School. In 1906 he died suddenly whilst still the headmaster of the high school. He is buried in the Tararu Cemetery, Thames. James Adams was a friend of the first Auckland Museum Director Thomas Cheeseman whom he often accompanied in the field. Cheeseman commemorated Adams contributions to New Zealand Botany with the species *Brachyglottis adamsii*, *Celmisia adamsii*, and *Trilepidea adamsii*. His granddaughter was Jacqueline Nancy Adams (1926-2007) botanical illustrator, artist, botanist and phycologist whose name is also commemorated by a number of marine seaweeds.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Mark (2012).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer. pg. 749.

Mark, A. F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson. pg. 232.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora.

Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-adamsii/>