

# Brachyglottis laxifolia

## SYNONYMS

*Senecio laxifolius* Buchanan

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Brachyglottis laxifolia* (Buchanan) B.Nord.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

BRALAX

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, St

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Small bushy grey-green shrub bearing yellow daisy-like flowers inhabiting the northern South Island. Leaves 2–6 cm long, tapering to a narrow tip and to a long grooved stalk, white underneath. Flowers 2 cm wide with yellow radiating petals in loose clusters.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-west Nelson—Mount Arthur, Mount Owen, Motueka Hills, Spenser Range, Discovery Peaks, Fowler's Pass; Marlborough—Mount Rintoul, St. Arnaud Range, Wairau Gorge).

## HABITAT

Montane to low alpine, 1100–1600 m. Locally common in tussock-scrubland on limestone and marble.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Laxly branched shrub up to 1 m tall. **Branchlets** tomentose when young. **Leaves** rather close-set; lamina more or less 20–60 × 10–20 mm, subcoriaceous, elliptic to lanceolate-oblong, acute, narrowed to petiole up to 40 mm long, becoming nearly glabrous above, clad in dense white tomentum below, distantly and obscurely crenate-sinuate to entire, midrib evident. **Capitula** loosely paniculately arranged on slender bracted branchlets; ultimate branchlets 30–50 mm long. Capitula up to 20 mm diameter; phyllaries linear-oblong, obtuse to subacute, tomentose on back, inner with scarious margins. **Ray-florets** 10–15, up to approximately 8 mm long, spreading, yellow. **Achenes** linear-oblong, grooved, sparsely pubescent, approximately 2 mm long; pappus-hairs up to 5 mm long, slender, barbellate.



Three Sisters Quarry, Mt Burnett.  
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Mt Burnett, Quarry Pit. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *Brachyglottis greyi* (Hook.f.) B.Nord. and best distinguished from that species by the small “tails” at the end of sagitate anthers. Ecologically it is a montane to subalpine species and is never found in coastal situations. Plants also, as a rule, have longer broadly lanceolate leaves.

## FLOWERING

December–February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

January–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed or semi hardwood cuttings. Does best in full sun and benefits from a heavy pruning after flowering. Will hybridise readily with most other *Brachyglottis* so if pure seed is wanted keep plants well apart.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**laxifolia**: Soft-leaved

## NOTES ON TAXONOMY

Some botanists consider *B. laxifolia* is better treated as a subspecies or variety of *B. greyi*, partly because they are allopatric taxa. However, *B. greyi* does not have “tails” at the ends of the anthers, and so, until a through revision of the genus is completed it seems wise to retain *B. laxifolia* at the rank of species.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Mark A F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson, NZ. 42 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

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