

Brachyglottis repanda

COMMON NAMES

rangiora, bushman's toilet paper, bushman's friend

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Common large shrub or sometimes small tree with very large (5-15cm) thin mottled leaves with jagged edges and white underneath. New growth covered in tawny or white fuzz. Flowers small, white or cream, clustered into large conspicuous sprays.

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to small tree up to 6 m or more tall. Trunk one or more arising from ground, covered in somewhat corky bark. Branches stout, spreading, rather brittle, initially densely clad in fine white to buff tomentum becoming glabrescent with age. Petiole stout, grooved, 80-100 mm long. Leaves leathery, 50-250(-300) X 50-20(-30) mm, dark green to pale green above, undersides clad in fine, appressed vivid white hairs, broad- to ovate-oblong, obtuse to subacute, obliquely cordate to truncate at base, margins distantly dentately lobed to sinuate. Inflorescence a much branched panicle. Capitula 5 mm diam., numerous, without ligules (discoïd). Involucral bracts 3 mm long, narrow-oblong to narrow spatulate, margins scarious except at base. Florets 10-12, yellow. Seeds (cypsela) narrowly oblong-elliptic to oblong elliptic, 1-1.8 mm long, ribs 6, rounded, broad. Pappus 2-3 mm, buff-yellow, scabrid.

SIMILAR TAXA

This shrub is unlikely to be confused with any other indigenous plant, except its close relative the Three Kings endemic *B. arborescens*. That species differs from *B. repanda* by its thick corky bark, smaller, saddle-shaped leaves, smaller, less branched panicles, darker sulphur yellow florets, oblong seeds 2-2.3 mm with 12-13 ribs, and longer pappus ((2.5-) 3.5-4.5 mm)).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island throughout. South Island - north west Nelson to just south of Greymouth in the west, and near Kekerengu in the east. Naturalised on Banks Peninsula, Otago Peninsula, and on Stewart Island at Oban.

HABITAT

Common in coastal, lowland and lower montane shrubland and open forest. Often a pioneer species.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Asteraceae



At Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Abaxial surface of leaf. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/05/2010, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis repanda J.R.Forst. et G.Forst.

SYNONYMS

Cineraria repanda G.Forst., Senecio georgii Endl. Senecio forsteri Hook.f., Brachyglottis rangiora Buchanan, Brachyglottis rangiora Hort., Brachyglottis repanda var. fragrans D.G.Drury, Brachyglottis repanda J.R.Forst. et G.Forst. var. repanda

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

(July-) August-October (-November)

FRUITING

(October-) November-December (-January)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Very easy from fresh seed and from semi-hardwood or hardwood cuttings. Fast growing but inclined to be short-lived. benefits from a hard prune after flowering.

OTHER INFORMATION

CULTIVATION

Commonly grown and offered by many commercial nurseries and native plant specialist growers. Several variegated forms are now available, as is a purple-leaved cultivar cv. purpurea said to have come from a wild plant on the banks of the Wanganui River.

CULTURAL USE/IMPORTANCE

The large leaves with their white, finely hairy undersides have served a dual purpose for many, as they make excellent toilet paper, and also can be written upon (with a ballpoint pen), thus allowing one to send rather novel letters.

ETYMOLOGY

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

repanda: Means irregularly undulating or scalloped (describing leaf margins)

NVS CODE

BRAREP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-repanda/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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10 March 2025