

Senecio biserratus

SYNONYMS

Senecio flaccidus A.Rich. nom. illegit., *Erechtites sonchoides* DC.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio biserratus Belcher

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

SENBIS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = c.96, 100

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North Island, South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura. Also in Australia.

HABITAT

Coastal and lowland habitats, in early successional habitats. This species is often associated with dune systems where it usually grows amongst *Muehlenbeckia complexa* (A.Cunn.) Meisn.




In cultivation ex Woodhill. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Woodhill. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual to short-lived subsucculent perennial herb up to 1 m tall but usually much less. **Stems** erect, basally sparsely or sometimes moderately coarse-hairy; indumentum reducing upwards. **Mid-stem leaves** more or less evenly spaced and sized, 50–150 mm long, width:length ratio 1.5–4, dark green to yellow green, elliptic to narrow-elliptic or lanceolate, coarse-dentate to deeply lobate; segments 3–9 per side extending along much of length, tending to be larger in proximal , antrorse, deltoid to near oblong; base usually auriculate, with auricles divided, semiamplexicaul; margin serrulate or denticulate, with denticulations frequent; both surfaces glabrous or sparsely hispid to scabridulous, rarely coarse-hairy; lower surface pale green to purple, more or less glabrous except on veins. **Uppermost leaves** similar, width:length ratio 1–2, sometimes widest at auricles. **Unit inflorescences** of many capitula; total number of capitula per stem often 50–200; not overtopping or only moderate; mature lateral peduncles mostly 5–10 mm long. **Calycular bracteoles** 3–6, 1.0–2.0 mm long; peduncle and margin of bracteoles more or less glabrous at anthesis; involucre 4.5–7.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm; involucral bracts predominantly 7–10, glabrous, apex erect; stereomes of dry material flat to slightly convex, thin, green, minutely purpled at apex. **Florets** 12–20, pale yellow, c. 70% female; corolla-lobes nearly oblong, thickened apically; corolla of bisexual florets 4.5–6.0 mm long, 4–5-lobed; corolla-lobes of female florets 3–4, 0.2–0.3 mm long. **Cypsela** 2.0–3.2 mm long, dark brown, narrow oblong to oblong-ellipsoid, with papillose hairs in dense bands, width:length ratio of hairs 1–3. **Pappus** 5–6 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other indigenous disciform *Senecio* by the subsucculent, dark green glabrate leaves; pinnately lobed mid stem leaves, whose segments are irregularly serrate to dentate and by the cypsela (seeds) which are 2–3 mm long (range mainly 2.5–2.8 mm long). *Senecio biserratus* is the only indigenous disciform senecio to frequent sand dune country.

FLOWERING

August–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

September–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and can become invasive.

THREATS

Declining throughout much of its range and in the northern South Island now present only on offshore islands. Reasons for the decline are unclear.

ETYMOLOGY

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

biserratus: Doubly-toothed

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 July 2005). Description based on Thompson (2004).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thompson IR. 2004. Taxonomic studies of Australian *Senecio* (Asteraceae): 1. The disciform species. *Muelleria* 19: 101–214.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Senecio biserratus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senecio-biserratus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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