

Senecio colensoi

SYNONYMS

Senecio colensoi Hook.f. var. *colensoi*, *Senecio colensoi* var. *lobulatus* Allan, *Senecio colensoi* var. *obtusifolius* Allan

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Senecio colensoi Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (east coast from Hawke's Bay south to Cape Turnagain, extending inland to Lake Taupo).

ETYMOLOGY

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

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Most botanists now include *Senecio colensoi* within *S. banksii* but the published evidence for this is wanting, i.e. no formal study of this species pair has been presented, just an opinion based on a brief examination of herbarium specimens (Webb et al. 1988). As such until a proper, critical study of the two species is undertaken it seems prudent to retain them as distinct, especially as in the field both species are easily distinguished and have been found growing sympatrically. *Senecio colensoi* differs from *S. banksii* mainly by the leaves which are densely covered with silvery-white lanate hairs. It is also a smaller, less heavily branched plant.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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



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