



Senecio hispidulus

Common Name(s):

fireweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. Three Kings, North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Present in Australia.

Habitat:

Coastal to montane. Widespread in disturbed habitats, especially in places recently burned or cleared of indigenous vegetation. Often found as a pasture weed, and can be common in urban areas. This species was regarded as scarce in the South Island during the 1800s. It is now common in the northern two-thirds of that island though still local in the west and it is still spreading south. It seems to be a recent arrival on the Chatham Islands.

Features*:

Annual to short-lived perennial herb up to 2 m tall. Stems erect, sparsely to moderately coarse-hairy or glabrous near base, if hairy reducing to more or less glabrous above mid stem. Mid stem leaves more or less evenly spaced and sized, 70-150 mm long, dark green to yellow green, sometimes tinged with red, narrow-ovate to lanceolate, rarely narrow-elliptic or linear, length:width (l:w) ratio 2.5-6, usually coarse-dentate to sub-pinnatisect; segments 2-5 per side predominantly in proximal two-thirds, large divisions usually in proximal half, slightly antrorse, deltoid to narrow-deltoid or occasionally sub-oblong; base auriculate with auricles divided, semiamplexicaul; margins with scattered denticulations or teeth; both surfaces coarse hairy; lower surface dark green or purple, often with weakly cobwebby hairs overlaying coarse-hairs. Uppermost leaves narrow-lanceolate or linear, l:w 5-15 (excluding auricles), lobate or appearing undissected due to rolling of lamina, often widest at auricles. Unit Inflorescence usually of many capitula; total number of capitula per stem often 50-100; overtopping marked; mature lateral peduncles mostly 7-14 mm long. Calycular bracteoles of capitula 3-6, 1.0-2.5 mm long; peduncle and margin of bracteoles more or less glabrous at anthesis; involucre 4.5-6.0 x 1.4-1.8 mm, involucre bracts 9-13, glabrous, with erect apex; stereomes of dried material moderately convex, green with minutely blackened tip. Florets 18-35, pale yellow to yellow, c.70% female; corolla-lobes deltoid, thickened apically; corolla of bisexual florets 4.5-6.0 mm long, 5-lobed; corolla-lobes of female florets 4, 0.3-0.5 mm long. Cypsela 1.5-2.2 mm long, red-brown, narrow-obloid with fine papillose hairs in lines or narrow bands, l:w ratio of hairs 3. Pappus 4-6 mm long.

Flowering:

August - May

Fruiting:

September - July

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

Thompson, I.R. 2004: Taxonomic studies of Australian *Senecio* (Asteraceae): 1. The disciform species. *Muelleria* 19: 101-214

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2257



Caption: Papanui Point

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: *Senecio hispidulus* showing basal and lower cauline leaves

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe, Jul 2006, Eastbourne