



Senecio minimus

Common Name(s):

fireweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

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

Habitat:

A weedy species of disturbed ground. Predominantly coastal to montane but occasionally extending into subalpine habitats. Most commonly associated with forest margins.

Features*:

Short-lived perennial to annual herb up to 2 m tall. Stems erect, green to dark purple, sparsely and minutely coarse-hairy below mid stem, becoming glabrous above. Mid stem leaves more or less evenly spaced and sized, 80-250 mm long, length:width ratio (l:w) 3-6, oblanceolate to narrow-elliptic, rarely broadly elliptic, not dissected often shallowly crenate; base auriculate, semi-amplexicaul; margin crowded-denticulate; upper surface dark green to greyish-green, glabrous or sparsely scabridulous; lower surface green or purple, sparsely cobbwebby. Upper most leaves narrowly elliptic, occasionally linear or narrow-lanceolate, l:w 3-10, often widest at auricles. Unit Inflorescences of many capitula; total number of capitula per stem often several hundred; overtopping absent or slight; mature lateral peduncles mostly 5-10 mm long. Capitula: calycular bracteoles 3-5, 1.0-2.0 mm long; peduncles mostly 5-10 mm long.; peduncle and margin of bracteoles more or less glabrous to lightly cobbwebby at anthesis; involucre 4.0-6.5 x 1.0-1.5 mm, involucre bracts 7-10, glabrous; stereomes (in dried material) more or less flat, green with black tips. Florets 12-25, c. 80% female; corolla lobes triangular, 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 1.6-2.5 mm long, narrow obloid, sometimes slightly angular, dull brown or dark red-brown, somewhat lustrous with papillose hairs in lines. Pappus 5-6 mm long.

Flowering:

Throughout the year but peaking in summer

Fruiting:

Throughout the year but most common in late summer to early autumn

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 July 2007. Description by P.J. de Lange based on Webb et al. (1988) and observations obtained from fresh plants and herbarium specimens.

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R. 2010: New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist. Wellington, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. 164pp.

Drury, D.G. 1974: Illustrated and annotated key to the erectitoid senecios in New Zealand (Senecioneae-Compositae) with a description of *Senecio diaschides*. N.Z. Journal of Botany 12(4): 513-540.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand Vol. IV. DSIR, Christchurch.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2258



Caption: A specimen of the northern race of *S. minimus*. Waipu. Nov 2010.

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: *Senecio minimus*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth