



Jacobaea vulgaris

Common Name(s):

ragwort

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Especially abundant in areas of higher rainfall (Webb et al., 1988). Plant of open ground and light gaps: wherever there is sufficient bare ground for seeds to germinate and establish. Found mostly in open forests, riverbeds, swamps and pastures. Grows on coastal slopes and along tracks (West, 1996).

Features:

Erect biennial or perennial herb, 30~120cm tall. Stems densely lanate above but soon glabrous, usu. branched only above, sometimes branched from base. Basal leaves lanate when young, usu. becoming almost glabrous but often remaining hairy on veins of lower surface, rarely sparsely to moderately hairy on both surfaces, petiolate; petiole < lamina, amplexicaul; lamina lyrate-pinnatifid, obovate to ovate-oblong, obtuse to subacute at apex, 5~20 x 4~6cm; segments ovate, oblong or obovate, 1~2-pinnatisect; venation pinnate. Cauline leaves lyrate-pinnatifid to 1-pinnate; segments again 1~2-pinnatisect; uppermost leaves apetiolate, with narrow segments. Capitula usu. numerous in dense flat-topped corymbs, rarely fewer and more diffuse. Supplementary bracts 3~10, lanceolate, 1.5~3mm long. Involucral bracts 11~14, ovate-oblong, 3~5mm long, usu. glabrous, sometimes with a few scattered hairs. Ray florets 11~13; ligules bright yellow, 5~12mm long. Disc golden-yellow. Achenes terete, 1.4~2.5mm long, those of ray florets glabrous, those of disc florets moderately hairy; pappus 3.5~5mm long, soon deciduous from ray achenes. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

November, December, January, February, March, April

References and further reading:

Pelser PB, Veldkamp J-F, van der Meijden R. 2006. New combinations in *Jacobaea* Mill. (Asteraceae - Senecioneae). *Compositae Newsletter* 44: 1-11.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2748



Caption: Boulder Hill, Lower Hutt.
Mar 2013.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: *Jacobaea vulgaris*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth