



Picris angustifolia subsp. *merxmülleri*

Common Name(s):

native oxtongue

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the South Island. From the Nelson area it is known from a historic gathering made from Fox Hill. It is otherwise known from Central Otago (the Remarkable Range, and around Lake Wakatipu), and from the shores of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau, in Southland. Present in south eastern Australia and Tasmania.

Habitat:

Open ground on montane lake margins, within beech (*Nothofagus*) forest, and at the bush line. Occasionally on cliff faces or within grey scrub communities.

Features*:

Annual to perennial herb 0.8-1.3 m tall. Stem slender, branched or unbranched, often bearing scapose stems. Indumentum of 2-hooked, bristly hairs. Leaves dark-green. Rosette leaves numerous, horizontal, petiolate, lamina 60-300 x 5-35 mm, narrowly oblanceolate to lanceolate, entire or deeply dentate; stem leaves fewer, or absent, if present becoming smaller toward plant apex. Lower stem leaves 50-300 x 6-35 mm, almost entire or dentate, terminal leaves bracteate, rarely thread-like. Inflorescences usually in cymose panicles or solitary on scapose stems. Capitula 10-16 mm long, 5-10 mm diam. Involucrum of 20-30 bracts in 2(-3) irregular outer and 2 inner rows, at flowering inner bracts twice length of outer. Bracts usually with a single line of 2-hooked anchor or bifid hairs along midrib on outer surface. Capitula with 30-80 yellow flowers. Achenes 4-6.6 mm long, narrowly fusiform. Cuspis short, 0.4-1.8 mm long., Achene ribs 30-50. Pappus 6-9.5 mm long, pappus rays 40-70.

Flowering:

October - May

Fruiting:

October - June

Threats:

Uncertain. It does appear to have died out from the Nelson area where it is known only from historic gatherings made in the late 1800s from near Fox Hill by Thomas Cheeseman. All other gatherings come from the Central Otago and Lakes district of Southland. In Central Otago, in suitable habitats it can be common, and because it is more often found above the tree line it is less susceptible to the same factors that threaten *P. burbidgeae*. Its exact status in Southland, where it is known from several 1960/1970s gatherings made from Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri needs clarification. It is unlikely to have died out from there it has more probably been mistaken for a weed and so overlooked.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Holzapfel & Lack (1993) and fresh specimens.

References and further reading:

Holzapfel, S.; Lack, H. W. 1993: New species of *Picris* (Asteraceae, Lactuceae) from Australia. *Willdenowia* 23: 181-191.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=296



Caption: Close up of the Achenes.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: A flowering specimen
Photographer: Peter de Lange,
 Herbarium specimen, ex cult.
 Arawhata Bridle Trail,