



Senecio dunedinensis

Common Name(s):

Fireweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island only, where locally distributed in the east and south from the upper Wairau River to Southland

Habitat:

Lowland to subalpine (10-1300 m a.s.l.). Frequenting grey scrub where it grows in shaded sites under taller shrubs. Also often seen growing in shaded sites amongst boulders, or near or under rock overhangs. Sometimes it has been gathered from open grassland.

Features*:

Erect, annual to short-lived, dark green to purple-green (almost brown-purple) perennial herb. Mid cauline leaves 40-100 x 3-15 mm, dark green, purple-green to brown-purple, glabrescent on both surfaces when mature, sometimes sparsely white-lanate on upper surface, and moderately so on undersides, apetiolate, not amplexicaul, narrow-elliptic or narrowly elliptic-obovate to linear, usually remotely denticulate, sometimes entire, usually revolute, and without lobes at base. Uppermost leaves similar but smaller, usually linear and more distinct white-lanate (particularly on leaf undersides). Supplementary bracts 3-8, 1.2 mm long. Involucral bracts 12-13, glabrous to sparsely lanate, 4.5-5.5 mm long. Ray florets 0. Disc greenish yellow to dark yellow, 2-3 mm diameter, Cypsela 2.5 mm long, dark grey-black, subcylindric, narrowed to and slightly constricted below apex, usually with 2-3 rows of long hairs, these mostly on ribs, sometimes evenly hairy.

Flowering:

November - February

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Never common with an apparently naturally sporadic distribution.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988).

References and further reading:

Murray, B.G.; de Lange, P.J. 2013: Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora – 40. Miscellaneous counts for 36 families. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 51: 31–60.

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=318



Caption: At Kyeburn

Photographer: John Barkla



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