



Senecio esleri

Common Name(s):

Esler's fireweed

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. New Zealand, North Island from Te Pahi to Rotorua (see de Lange 1997, 1995; P. J. de Lange unpubl. data). Also Australia, where it is an uncommon montane species of New South Wales and Tasmania

Habitat:

Waste places and coastal habitats in Northland and the Auckland area. Especially roadsides, street margins, rock walls, waste places, gardens and sand dunes.

Features*:

Erect herb, usually annual, rarely a short-lived perennial, up to c. 2 m tall. Stems striate, often tinged purple, sparsely to densely setose especially above, branched above to form inflorescence. Lower cauline leaves almost glabrous to sparsely setose on upper surface, almost glabrous to moderately setose on lower especially on mid vein, apetiolate and longcuneate, 1-pinnatifid to 1/2-2/3 width, elliptic to narrow-obovate, acute at apex, c. 80-200 X 15-80 mm; segments narrow- to ovate-oblong, irregularly toothed; mid cauline leaves slightly larger, more deeply dissected with narrow-oblong toothed segments, sometimes amplexicaul and often 3-fid at base; uppermost leaves more ovate, sometimes with more or less linear segments. Capitula in loose panicles, 1-2 mm diameter. Supplementary bracts 3-10, lanceolate, ciliate, 1-2 mm long. Involucral bracts (11>12-13, linear, usually glabrous, sometimes with a few scattered hairs, 4.5-5.5 mm long. Outer florets c. 24-35, female, filiform; inner florets c. 4-11, hermaphrodite, tubular. Achenes narrowly ellipsoid-cylindric, slightly narrowed and constricted below apex, with 2-3 rows of short antrorse hairs in grooves between or on edges of broad ribs and sometimes appearing evenly hairy, 2-2.3 mm long; pappus 5-7 mm long.

Flowering:

September to April

Fruiting:

October to August

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (12 July 2005). Description based on Webb (1989)

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J. 1995: *Senecio esleri* makes it into the Waikato. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 50: 42-43.

de Lange, P.J. 1997: *Senecio esleri* straggles into Hamilton City. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 52: 26

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

Heenan, P.B.; de Lange, P.J.; Keeling, J. 2009: *Alternanthera nahui*, a new species of Amaranthaceae indigenous to New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47(1): 97-105.

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

Thompson, I.R. 2006: A taxonomic treatment of tribe Senecioneae (Asteraceae) in Australia. *Muelleria* 24: 65.

Webb, C.J. 1989: *Senecio esleri* (Asteraceae), a new fireweed. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 27: 565-567.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4134



Caption: *Senecio esleri*

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: *Senecio esleri* juvenile plant showing growth habit

Photographer: Peter de Lange, 18 May 2006, Westfield St Lukes, Mt Albert, Auckland