



Senecio radiolatus subsp. *radiolatus*

Common Name(s):

Chatham Island groundsel

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. Chatham Island group only

Habitat:

Found on dunes and other coastal sites, such as in crevices where there is little soil, or on bouldery beaches. It is typically associated with the nesting sites of sea birds, and has been found on the lagoon-shore limestone cliffs.

Features*:

Annual to short-lived, stout, grey-green to dark green, fleshy, erect perennial herb. Leaves mostly lanate when young, maturing glabrate or glabrous above, but remaining lanate beneath, base amplexicaul, cuneate; lamina 30-250 x 20-120 mm, dark grey-green, silvery-grey or dark green above, paler beneath, ovate to suborbicular, pinnately lobed to pinnatisect with many narrow to broad entire or few-toothed segments. Uppermost leaves smaller, less divided, narrow-obovate, broadly tapering to base.

Supplementary bracts and calycular bracteoles variable, 3-16, 1.5-8 mm long. Involucral bracts 13-20, 4-9 mm long, glabrate. Ray florets 10-20, ligules dark yellow, 1.5-8 mm long. Disc yellow, 5-15 mm diameter. Cypsela 2.2-3.5 mm long, dark brown to black-brown, narrowly elliptic to narrowly oblong-elliptic, narrowed to and often slightly constricted below apex, base cuneate; ribs broad, rounded with narrow u-shaped grooves, hairs medium-length, retrorse, more or less evenly distributed or occasionally restricted to grooves. Pappus caducous, 5-7 mm long.

Flowering:

October - May

Fruiting:

November - June

Threats:

Threatened by loss of its coastal habitat, loss of seabird colonies and browsing by introduced animals (including insects and molluscs).

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 11 November 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988) supplemented with information obtained from fresh specimens and herbarium material.

References and further reading:

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=682



Caption: Point Somes, Chatham Islands

Photographer: John Sawyer



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