

Brachyglottis kirkii var. kirkii

COMMON NAME

kohurangi, Kirk's daisy, oro

SYNONYMS

Senecio kirkii var. *kirkii* Hook.f ex Kirk; *Urostemon kirkii* var. *kirkii* (Kirk) B.Nord., *Senecio neo-zealandicus* Druce, *Senecio glastifolius* Hook.f. nom. illegit.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis kirkii (Kirk) C.Webb var. *kirkii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

BRAKVK

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Serious Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Fleshy small green usually epiphytic shrub bearing large white daisy-like flowers. Twigs reddish-purple, brittle, with old leaf scars. Leaves, shiny, fleshy, with a few large lobes on margin. Flowers with long white radiating petals around a yellow centre, clustered together.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (locally scattered throughout).

HABITAT

An epiphyte of lowland to lower montane forest, sometimes terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A spring flowering, usually epiphytic shrub to 1.5 m tall with purple stems and grey bark developed on old wood.

Leaves 40–100 × 20–40 mm, fleshy, variable in shape, usually toothed in upper 1/3, hairless, upper surface pale to dark green, often tinged maroon, undersides paler. **Flowers** 30 × 40 mm diameter, borne in dense inflorescences of 3–20 flowers, the individual daisy-like flowers have white petals (rays). **Fruits** dry, windborne, dandelion structures.



At Pinnacle Rock Track, Coromandel (October).
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Puffer Track. Photographer: A. J. Townsend,
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SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species. However, because it is usually epiphytic and so often well out of reach, plants could be confused with the epiphytic *Pittosporum kirkii* and *P. cornifolium*. These pittosporums have leathery leaves, non-daisy like flowers and round fruits which split to reveal hard black seeds embedded within sticky gum.

FLOWERING

August–October

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

October–December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings but, as a rule, difficult to maintain in cultivation.

THREATS

This plant is intolerant of browse and targeted by possums, goats and deer.

ETYMOLOGY

brachyglottis: Name comes from the Greek words brachus meaning “short” and glottis meaning “the vocal apparatus of the larynx”

kirkii: After Thomas Kirk (18 January 1828 - 8 March 1898), a NZ botanist and lecturer in natural sciences and regarded as a leader of botanical enquiry in NZ for over three decades. One of his most significant publications was Forest flora of NZ (1889) but he also contributed over 130 papers to the Transactions and Proceedings of the NZ Institute and other journals.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Newhook FJ. 1943. Variation in *Senecio kirkii* Hook.f. *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 72: 341–346. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TPRSNZ1942-72.2.7.27>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-kirkii-var-kirkii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/brachyglottis-kirkii-var-kirkii/>