

Brachyglottis haastii

SYNONYMS

Senecio haastii Hook.f.

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Brachyglottis haastii (Hook.f.) B.Nord.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

BRAHAA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 60

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

New Zealand: Endemic. South Island (mostly east of the Main Divide from Arthur's Pass to the Blue Mountains).

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine grassland.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stock and bases of petioles clad in long pale buff hairs. **Leaves:** lamina 30–150 × 20–60 mm, oblong to broad-oblong or suborbicular, obtuse, cordate to truncate at base, sub-membranous, clad when young on both surfaces in dense white sub-appressed tomentum, sometimes becoming nearly glabrous above when mature. **Petioles** 30–150 mm long, clad in dense soft white tomentum, finally nearly, glabrous. **Scapes** up to 350 mm long, usually slenderly branched above, clad in dense tomentum of soft whitish hairs mingled with glandular ones, becoming nearly glabrous with age; lower bracts spathulate, floral bracts linear. **Capitula** 20–40 mm diameter, ligules yellow, up to 20 mm long; phyllaries tomentose on back, linear, obtuse. **Pappus-hairs** up to 5 mm long, barbellate. **Achenes** approximately 4 mm long, linear.

FLOWERING

December–March–(April)

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow



A Plant flowering on the Rock & Pillar range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ahuriri Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

FRUITING

January–April–(May)

LIFE CYCLE

Pappate cypselae are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

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

haastii: Honours the New Zealand geologist and botanist Sir Julius von Haast (1822–87)

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Cheeseman (Man. N.Z. Fl. 1906, 368) remarked of the genus in New Zealand: “The herbaceous species are exceedingly variable, and some of them difficult to determine; but the shrubby varieties are remarkably distinct.” The complex of forms found in the herbs with leaves in rosettes and scapose inflorescences is still far from resolved, especially as to how far the linking forms are due to hybridism and how far to true-breeding varieties. There is good evidence that hybrids occur of the origins *B. haastii* × *B. southlandica*. It is probable that detailed study of the occurrences of glandular hairs and of trichomes would yield evidence of “introgression”, as Wall’s examination of the populations on Banks Peninsula (T.N.Z.I. 50, 1918, 198) suggests.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Allan (1961) and Mark (2012).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Cheeseman TF. 1906. Manual of the New Zealand Flora. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ.
- Mark A F. 2012. Above the Treeline: A Nature Guide to Alpine New Zealand. Craig Potton Publishing, Nelson, NZ. 42 p.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.
- Wall A. 1918. On the distribution of *Senecio saxifragoides* Hook. f., and its relation to *Senecio lagopus* Raoul. *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 50: 198–206. <https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/periodicals/TPRSNZ1918-50.2.7.1.21>

MORE INFORMATION

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