

Senecio velleioides



Senecio velleioides. G. Jordan.

FAMILY: ASTERACEAE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Senecio velleioides*,
A.Cunn. ex DC., *Prodr.* 6: 374 (1838)

COMMON NAME: Forest groundsel

COMMONWEALTH STATUS: (*EPBC Act*)
Not Listed

TASMANIAN STATUS: (*TSP Act*) delisted
from rare April 2016

Description

A short lived, hairless perennial herb from 50 cm to 2 metres tall. **Stems:** The erect stems are simple or sparingly branched with fine linear markings. **Leaves:** The leaves are oval to oblong-shaped with the lower leaves narrowing towards the base and sometimes stalked but at the point of attachment becoming widened and lobed. **Flowers:** The inflorescence consists of flower heads in a succession along the stem. The flower heads are often numerous and approximately 2.5 cm in diameter. The leaf-like structures surrounding flower heads (phyllaries) are narrow and linear with points that end in a fine brush of hairs approximately 8 mm long. The florets are yellow. Flowering is from October to March (Flora of Victoria). **Fruit:** The fruit is small and dry with leathery walls. It is ribbed with short hairs and a fine and silky pappus (ring of scales or hairs found on top of fruit) (description from Curtis 1963).

Distribution and Habitat

On the mainland this species occurs in Victoria and New South Wales. In Tasmania, *Senecio velleioides* is widespread and found in moist places on hills, particularly after disturbance by fire (Curtis 1963).

Key Sites and Populations

Key sites include Mt Grey (Snug Plains), Pirates Road (Taranna), Forsyth Island (Furneaux), Tullah, Rosebery, Goulds Country, Pine Cove Creek, Hibbs Lagoon, Great Lake Road, Mt Wellington, St Crispins Well, Fern Tree, Glendevie (south of Geeveston), Snug Falls track, Van Morey Road (Margate) and Boyd Island (Lake Gordon).



Senecio velleioides.
R. Schahinger

Known Reserves

Reserved in the Arthur River Forest Reserve, Eastern Tiers Forest Reserve, Forsythe Island Conservation Area, Liffey Forest Reserve, Snug Tiers Nature Recreation Area, Southwest Conservation Area and Wellington Park

Ecology and Management

Senecio velleioides is an ephemeral species that germinates prolifically after fire and other disturbance, readily recolonising areas where it may not have been present as a 'plant' for some years. The plants are relatively short-lived, producing masses of wind dispersed seed that, unlike many other daisies, remain dormant in the soil for many years.

Insects are the most likely pollination vector for this species (A. Hingston pers. comm.).

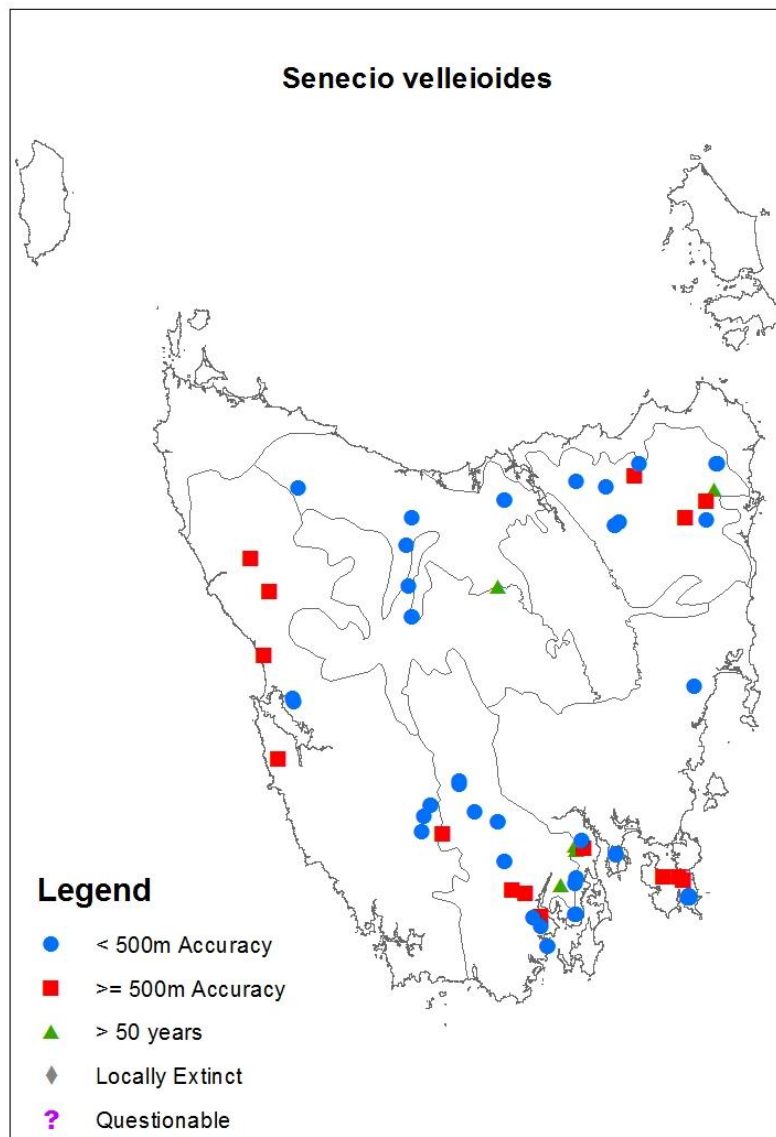
Conservation Status Assessment

Due to its widespread distribution and large number of populations and individuals resulting from new observations since the time of listing, the conservation status of *Senecio velleioides* was reassessed, resulting in the species being delisted from schedules of the *Threatened Species Protection Act 1995* in April 2016.

Further Information

- Curtis, WM 1967, *The Student's Flora of Tasmania*, Part 3, Government Printer, Hobart.
- Wapstra, M 2005, *Senecio velleioides*, a threatened plant colonising a clearfelled coupe. *Forest Practices News* 6(4):12.

Tasmanian Distribution (showing IBRA bioregions)
(As per Threatened Species Section records, May 2015)



Date last modified: 4/5/2016

Contact details

Threatened Species Section, Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, GPO Box 44, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7001. Phone (03) 61654340.