

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering plant. Photographer Don Wood, Barragoot Lake, south of Bermagui



Flowering stem. Photographer Chris Lindorff, Brisbane Ranges National Park, Vic

Common name

A fireweed

Family

Asteraceae

Where found

Forest, woodland, heath, and moist sites including near streams and swamps. widespread. Not common on the Western Slopes.

subsp. *glomeratus* Forest, woodland, heath, and moist sites. Two records from south west and south of Bemboka.

subsp. *longifructus* Near streams and swamps. Coast, ranges, and tablelands..

Notes

Annual or short-lived **perennial** herb to about 2 m tall. Stems moderately rough-hairy, or hairy to hairless. Leaves **alternating** up the stems, 3-20 cm long, 10-50 mm wide, sometimes larger, bases with well-developed **auricles**, somewhat stem claspings, flattish in cross section, surfaces hairy to slightly hairy, lower surface sometimes tinged purple, margins coarsely toothed to deeply lobed, the lobes often toothed, with 2-7 oblong to oval, or less often triangular, lobes per side. Uppermost leaves with toothed margins or appearing **entire** due to rolling. Flower **heads** 3-6 mm long, 1.5-3 mm in diameter, cylindrical to almost globular, green to purple, with 0 **petals**, surrounded by 11-14 **appressed** green to purple **bracts**. **Florets** 26-50, about 2 mm longer than the flower **head**. Flower heads in large clusters, often 50-400 flowered. Flowers mostly Spring to Autumn.

subsp. glomeratus: Medium to dark red-brown seeds 1-1.7 mm long. **Pappus** usually more than 5 mm long. Bracts often purple throughout. Seeds best seen with a low power microscope.

subsp. longifructus: Outer seeds greenish or olive, other seeds medium brown. Seeds 1.3-2.2 mm long. Pappus usually less than 5 mm long. Bracts usually predominantly green. Seeds best seen with a low power microscope.

(subsp. *longifructus*) Rare Vic.

Hybridisation between subsp. *glomeratus* and subsp. *longifructus* is likely where their ranges overlap. Hybridisation between *Senecio minimus* or *Senecio hispidulus* and either *Senecio glomeratus* subsp. *glomeratus* or *Senecio glomeratus* subsp. *longifructus* is likely.

VICFLORA description of species and key to subspecies: <https://vicflora.rbg.vic.gov.au/floral/taxon/fe892c9c-ad23-4571-aa90-48b83982b2d3> (accessed 14 April 2021)

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