

Senecio condylus

PERTH GROUNDSEL

I.Thomps.

Flowering period: August–January, depending on extent and duration of rainfall.

Description: Erect, herbaceous annual herb to 30 cm, often thought of as a weed species. Leaves 30–70 mm long, 5–10 mm wide, highly variable in shape from linear to deeply divided somewhat fleshy, more so in exposed, salt-affected areas. Flower heads terminal and in leaf axils with more than 20 flowers per head, often overlapping, 10–12 mm across. Seeds 1.5–2 mm long and released when the flower head dries and withers.

Pollination: Open pollinated by a wide variety of insects.

Distribution: Endemic to Perth coastal sands and limestone from frontal dunes to open areas in secondary dunes. Species often thought of as a weed for its propensity to colonise disturbed areas along roadsides or in dune restoration areas.

Propagation: From seed; however, the species is often naturally abundant and may often recolonise coastal areas unaided. Germination dependent upon rainfall events with dense stands of the species in dunes following good rainfall.

Uses in restoration: A species that colonises disturbed areas. With its rapid growth and resistance to wind exposure and salt spray, the species may play a useful role in stabilising dune areas and may even act as a nurse species, protecting newly planted species from wind damage. Will decline as vegetation cover increases.

Notes: One of the few native annual species of the Perth coastal zone and prominent when in flower. Previously included in *Senecio lautus*.



Habit



Flower head



Fruiting head



Distribution