

References

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Senecio esleri straggles into Hamilton City!

P.J. de Lange

In 1995 I drew attention to the fact that the adventive *Senecio esleri* had been collected from Huntly during 1993 (de Lange 1995), thus extending its distribution a considerable distance south of where it had previously been reported by Webb (1989). In that same article I wondered when this weedy fireweed would show up any further south.

During February 1997 I discovered a single flowering plant growing amongst other assorted weeds on an untidy roadside kerb, Te Rapa Straight, Hamilton (AK 231042). Although no other specimens were seen in the area (nor do others exist in WAIK!), I strongly suspect that my random sample is indicative of this fireweed's further spread into the greater Waikato, rather than an isolated dispersal event. So I am keeping a look out for further occurrences to map the pattern of establishment.

On this point it is interesting to observe that the establishment pattern exhibited by *S. esleri* has apparently not followed the trend set by other "adventive fireweeds" (Drury 1974; de Lange 1990, 1995) whereby colonisation of the Hauraki Plains and Coromandel Peninsula has preceded the taxon's spread into Hamilton Basin (*sensu* McCraw 1967).

So unusual is this pattern that I suspect it is anomalous. Has anyone seen *Senecio esleri* in the Coromandel region? It must be there by now.

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