Senecio paludosus L.

Fen Ragwort

Key:

Dots refer to the native sites of the species

Numbers refer to the nearby Botanical Collections



Starting references

Family

Asteraceae

IUCN category (2001)

Critically Endangered

Habit

Herb (long-lived perennial). Wetland sp.

Habitat

Tall-herb fens and ditches.

Reasons for decline

Distribution in wild

| Country | Locality & Vice County | Sites (10km² occurences) | Population (plants) |
|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| England | near Ely, Cambridgeshire | 1 | small |

Ex situ Collections

Gardens close to the region of distribution of the species

1 Cambridge University Botanic Garden

Gardens with specialisation on family Asteraceae or genus Senecio

None

Potential to grow the species in ex situ Collections

From Cambridge University Botanic Garden, *Conservation Collection* from the 1970s to the 1990s: Growth is restricted not only by stagnation of the mud in the tank in which it is grown, but also by waterlogging. In 1982, 2 clumps were planted on a sloping soil surface in one tank. In 1984, the clump growing in the higher soil produced 7 flowering stems (Annual report, 1984).

Conservation information

Senecio paludosus is listed on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981

Linkages to BAPs

The species is recorded in Cambridge BAP.

Habitat Management

English Nature ensures that populations are monitored and suitable new sites are found for new introductions.

Conservation programmes

In 1972, when *S. paludosus* was rediscovered near Ely, ripe seed and a small portion of the root-stock of one of the non-flowering plant were collected and planted at Cambridge University Botanic Garden. The species is now adopted by English Nature's 'Species Recovery Programme'.

Seed of the original plants have been reintroduced to five fenland sites, Woodwalton Fen, Wicken Fen NNR, a ditch near the Ely site and the Cam Washes.

Anglian Water and English Nature have set up a nursery (at Flag Fen, Peterborough) of plants grown from the original stock. It will provide a source for future reintroductions and allow visitors to see the plant without endangering it in the wild.

Web References

- Image: http://www.ukwildflowers.com/Web_pages/senecio_paludosus_fen_ragwort.htm
- NBN Gateway database : http://www.searchnbn.net