Subshrub with whitish tomentose leaves and flashy yellow flowers.


Common names: dusty miller, silver ragwort

Family: *Asteraceae* (*Compositae*)

Status in Portugal: invasive species (listed in the annex I of Decreto-Lei n° 565/99, 21 December)

Risk Assessment score: (in development)

Synonymy: *Senecio cineraria* DC.

Last update: 11/07/2014

**How to recognise it**

Woody subshrub up to 50 cm, with white tomentose stems.

**Leaves:** from 4-5 x 2,5-7 cm, ovate to lanceolate, dentate to pinnatisect, white-tomentose in the lower surface, ± tomentose, greenish to glabrescent on the upper surface.

**Flowers:** yellow, arranged in capitula with 12-15 mm diameter, arranged in dense corymbs, with white-tomentose bracts.

**Fruits:** cypselas with white hairs.

**Flowering:** May to July.

**Characteristics that aid invasion**

It propagates by seed and its seeds are wind-dispersed.
**Senecio bicolor subsp. cineraria (dusty miller)**

It also propagates vegetatively, by stem sprouts.

**ORIGIN AND DISTRIBUTION**

**Native distribution area**
Central and Oriental Mediterranean region.

**Distribution in Portugal**
Mainland Portugal (Minho, Douro Litoral, Beira Baixa, Beira Litoral, Estremadura).

**Other places where the species is invasive**
Western USA (California).

**Introduction reasons**
Probably for ornamental purposes.

**Preferential invasion environments**
Subspontaneous in beach areas and several rocky littoral locations.

**IMPACTS**

Although it’s legally considered as being an invasive, its dispersion in Portugal is relatively limited.

**Impacts on ecosystems**
It may potentially constitute a threat for native vegetation.

**Other impacts**
All the parts of the plants are toxic, being noxious for animals.

**CONTROL**

Controlling an invasive species demands a well-planned management, which includes the determination of the invaded area, identifying the causes of invasion, assessing the impacts, defining the intervention priorities, selecting the adequate control methodologies and their application. Afterwards it is fundamental to monitor the efficiency of the methodologies and recuperation of the intervened area as to perform, whenever necessary, the follow-up control.

The control methodologies used for *Senecio bicolor* include:

**Physical control**

*Hand pulling*: applied to plants of all sizes. Because it is a frequent species in sandy substrates, hand pulling is normally easy. On rocky areas, hand pulling should be done carefully as to avoid release of the rocky substrate.

For additional information, visit the webpage [www.invasoras.pt](http://www.invasoras.pt) and/or contact us at invader@uc.pt.
Senecio bicolor subsp. cineraria (dusty miller)

REFERENCES


