

Ranunculus kirkii

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus kirkii Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANKIR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island.

HABITAT

Lowland to alpine in damp ground amongst scrub and tussock grassland.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Non rhizomatous, tufted perennial herb up to 250 mm tall. Roots numerous, fleshy. Leaves mainly in a loose rosette, ternate; leaflets petiolules short, 5-25 mm diameter, divided to about 1/2 or more into 3 crenate or bluntly toothed lobes, hairy or glabrescent. Flowers 1-3 per stem, 8-18 mm diameter; pedicels conspicuous, covered within long appressed, sericeous hairs. Sepals spreading, sericeous hairy. petals 5, 2-4 x 0.9-1.2 mm, yellow, narrowly obovate; nectary single, 2 mm from petal base, covered by a small rounded scale. Receptacle hairy. Achenes 10-15, 2.5-3.4 mm long, flattened, glabrous, with a broad body; beak straight or curved, 0.5-1 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the 1-ternate leaves with ternatifid stalked (petiolules) leaflets. Morphologically perhaps closest to *R. brevis* which differs by its 2-ternatifid leaves with linear to linear-lanceolate lobes.



FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

THREATS

Not threatened. Listed only because it is a narrow-range endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

ranunculus: From the Latin 'rana' frog, meaning little frog and probably refers to the plants typical marshy habit where frogs abound

kirkii: After Thomas Kirk (18 January 1828 - 8 March 1898), a NZ botanist and lecturer in natural sciences and regarded as a leader of botanical enquiry in NZ for over three decades. One of his most significant publications was Forest flora of NZ (1889) but he also contributed over 130 papers to the Transactions and Proceedings of the NZ Institute and other journals.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-kirkii/>