

Ranunculus limosella

COMMON NAME

mud buttercup

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus limosella Kirk

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANLIM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Gradual Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands from Lake Whangape south.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Usually found in raupō (*Typha orientalis*) dominated wetlands where it grows in still moderately deep to deep water.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

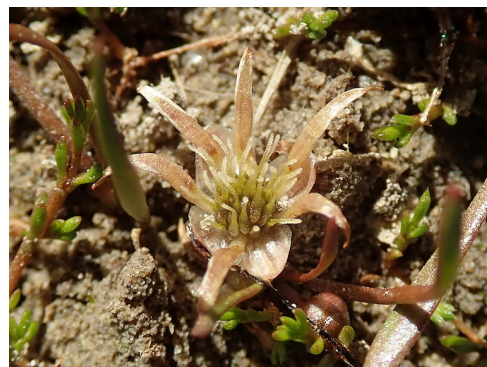
Small perennial herb. Leaves in rosettes, tufted along a slender, creeping, buried stem; linear to spoon-shaped, not toothed, hairless, with long stems, up to 14cm long when permanently submerged. Flowers yellow to purple, solitary, 6–8mm diameter, with 4 linear petals and 4 spreading sepals; on stalks 1–2cm tall.

SIMILAR TAXA

Limosella lineata. Leaves of mud buttercup are linear to spoon-shaped, slightly curved, with a smaller leaf sheath than *Limosella lineata*, which has purely linear leaves. Other buttercups have toothed or lobed leaves. Mud buttercup has buried stems, while *Limosella lineata* stems creep along the surface.



Wairewa/Lake Forsyth, Banks Peninsula.
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken:
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FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, Yellow, Red/Pink

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy to grow from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Best in a pond or kept in semi-submerged pots.

THREATS

Habitat modification, eutrophication from uncontrolled nutrient run off, fertilisers, and drains are major problems throughout its range. Invasive aquatic weeds are a problem in many areas.

ETYMOLOGY

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

limosella: From the Latin 'limosus' mud, refers to the habit of growing in mud

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Ranunculus limosella* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-limosella/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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