

Ranunculus membranifolius

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus membranifolius (Kirk) Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANMEM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb. Rosettes of tufted, shallowly lobed hairy leaves on arching hairy stolons.

DISTRIBUTION

North Island: Mt Egmont, Kaimanawa Range, Ruahine Range, Tararua Range, Rimutaka Range; South Island: Nelson, Westland, Fiordland, occasionally western parts of Marlborough, Canterbury, and Otago.

HABITAT

Damp places in forest and scrub, up to 1400 m.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Basal lvs 3-foliolate or rarely 3-lobed, hairy; leaflets shortly stalked, suborbicular to obovate, shallowly 3-lobed, often sparingly toothed, 1-2-(3) cm diam. Cauline lvs similar, smaller, often merely 3-lobed. Fls on ascending, hairy stems or axillary on stolons, few per stem, 4-8 mm diam. Pedicels terete, 2-6 cm long, hairy; hairs usually spreading, rarely subappressed above. Sepals reflexed at flowering, hairy. Petals 5, yellow, narrow-obovate; nectary single, c. 0.5 mm from petal base, covered by a small oblong or triangular scale. Receptacle hairy. Achenes 20-40 in globose heads, pale, moderately flattened, glabrous; body 1.5-2 mm long; beak straight, or curved only at tip, 0.5-1 mm long.



Charleston, West Coast. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 13/05/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Makirikiri, Charleston, West Coast. Photographer: Alice Shanks, Date taken: 05/06/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Ranunculus membranifolius is most similar to *R. reflexus*, from which it differs in its slender stoloniferous habit, shorter pedicels often with patent hairs, smaller fls and fewer, darker, and broader achenes with straighter beaks. Although the two species often grow together, *R. membranifolius* is commonest in areas west of the Main Divide in both islands and is not known north of about Taupō.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

ETYMOLOGY

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (June 2021). Distribution, Habitat, Features, and Similar Taxa sections copied from Webb *et al.* (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb C.J., Sykes W.R., and Garnock-Jones P.J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand Volume IV: Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

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