

Ranunculus mirus

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1987)

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus mirus Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANMIR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, north-west Nelson where it found in the Kahurangi National Park on the Peel Range and Mt Arthur south to the Wangapeka Range.

HABITAT

Alpine (1200-1500 m a.s.l.). A karst endemic of marble and limestone soils and karrenfield. usually found growing in amongst short grasses and herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb. Rosettes small, tufted. Rhizomes absent. Rosette leaves on long hairy petioles (hairs subappressed); lamina bright green to dark green, deeply 3-ternate, densely covered in subappressed hairs; leaflets stalked, obovate, shallowly to deeply 3-lobed, toothed, 7-15 x 10-18 mm. Cauline leaves 1-3, small, sessile or shortly petiolate, lanceolate-entire or obovate-trifid. Flowers 18-25 mm diameter, solitary or 2-3-flowered; pedicels covered with subappressed hairs. Sepals spreading, hispid. Petals 5, 1.6-2(-3) mm long, bright yellow, obovate; nectary 1mm from petal base, single, covered by a small narrow-oblong scale. receptacle hairy. Achenes 15-20 in globose heads, dark brown to dark brownish-purple, flattened, glabrous or with a few sparse bristles; body 2.5-3 x 2-2.5 mm; beak 1-1.5 mm long, curved with hooked apex.



SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Ranunculus reflexus* Garn.-Jones and potentially easily confused with *R. foliosus* Kirk. From *R. reflexus* it differs its appressed stem, petiole and leaf hairs, ternate to ternatifid leaves, spreading sepals and fewer (15-30 cf. 40-100), larger, darker achenes (which sometimes bear 1-2 bristles), and by its 1-1.5 rather than 0.7-1 mm long achene beak. From *R. foliosus* it differs by its appressed rather than spreading stem, petiole and leaf hairs, and by its long (1-1.5 cf. 0.5-1 mm) beaked achenes.

FLOWERING

November - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably quite easily grown. However, most alpine buttercups are prone to powdery mildew infections at low altitudes and dislike humidity.

THREATS

A narrow range endemic. Plants are believed to be secure within their alpine habitat.

ETYMOLOGY

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

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-mirus/>