

# Ranunculus pinguis

## SYNONYMS

*Ranunculus pinguis* var. *pilosus* Hook.f., *Ranunculus pinguis* var. *rhombifolius* Hook.f.

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ranunculus pinguis* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANPIN

## 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. Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

From sea level to 600 m a.s.l. Growing in damp to flooded ground within grassland and in rocky fell field and moors.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short, stout and rather fleshy perennial rosette forming herb 50–250 mm high, all parts glabrous or sparsely pilose hairy. **Rhizome** fleshy 7–12 mm diam., bearing many fleshy white roots. **Leaves** on stout fleshy petioles 20–100 mm long, with very broad, stout, fleshy sheathing bases; lamina 20–80 mm diam., dark green, reniform, deeply lobed, with lobes also crenate. **Flowering scape** 1–3, usually 1-flowered, unbranched, as long or longer than leaves, stout, naked or with 1–2 small linear bracts above middle. **Flowers** 20–30 mm diameter; sepals 5–6, oblong; petals 6–10, pale yellow, narrow-obovate or linear-oblong, small and stiff, hardly as long as sepals, glossy portion reduced, with single or occasionally multiple nectaries at base; receptacle broadly oblong. **Achenes** numerous, small, glabrous or with short scattered hairs in upper part of body and lower part of beak; body obovate-oblong or elliptic oblong 1.4–2.0 mm long, pale brown, orange or dark red-brown, beak 1.1–2.0 mm long, straight, bent or curved to ventral side.



Campbell Island. Photographer: David A. Norton, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Campbell Island. Photographer: David A. Norton, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### SIMILAR TAXA

Very distinctive. The only large buttercup found on the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. It appears closest to *Ranunculus pachyrrhizus* and *R. viridis*. It differs from *R. pachyrrhizus* by its glabrous to sparsely hairy rather than densely hairy leaves which are shallowly 3–7-lobed and 20–80 mm diameter, rather than 1–2-ternatifid and 15–30 mm diameter, and by the short, ascending, deeply buried rather long trailing exposed rhizomes. *Ranunculus viridis* is a much smaller bright green plant confined to the southern end of Stewart Island/Rakiura.

### FLOWERING

December–January

### FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

### FRUITING

February–April

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

### THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range island endemic. It is however, abundant within its known habitats.

### 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 (12 February 2007). Description based on Fisher (1965).

### REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Fisher FJF. 1965. The alpine *Ranunculi* of New Zealand. *New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research Bulletin* 165: 1–192.

### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

### MORE INFORMATION

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