

Ranunculus stylosus

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus stylosus H.D.Wilson et Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island (southern part): Tin Range, Deceit Peaks, Mt Rakeahua.

HABITAT

Subalpine (> 500 m a.s.l.) favouring rocky or open windswept shrubland, grassland and herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming solitary appressed rosettes or small patches in exposed habitats but in sheltered sites producing tufts up to 50 mm tall. Petioles 15–40 mm long, dark green, mottled with dark-purple, broadly-sheathing, scarious with ciliate bases. Leaves 9–14 x 9–14 mm, glossy dark green, broad-ovate to deltoid, simple, crenately lobed or toothed, or cut deeply to 1/2 way into main 3 lobes; lamina rigidly coriaceous, covered in pale buff hairs. Flowers solitary, 15–20 mm diameter; peduncles 20–40 mm long, stout, decumbent to ascending, dark green, mottled purple or purple throughout, very hairy, bracts 1–2 at base, these simple, narrow; sepals 5, fugaceous, green-margined, dark brown to near black beneath; petals 5–7, rather narrow, 7–10 x 3–4 mm, dark glossy yellow above, often blotched orange-brown to dark brown beneath; nectary near petal base, covered by oblong scale; stamens 15–20; receptacle sparsely hairy. Achenes 4–6, 3–5 mm long, brown blotched with dark brown, turgidly ellipsoid, beak slender, 2–2.5 mm, only slightly curved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to *R. kirkii* Petrie which is another Stewart Island endemic, from which *R. stylosus* differs by its rather thick, simple to 3-lobed (never ternate) leaves, much larger, solitary flowers, the near basal nectary, and narrower, turgid rather than flattened achenes with long (2–2.5 cf 0.5–1.2) usually only slightly curved beaks.



Mt Rakeahua, Rakiura. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 28/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Rakeahua, Rakiura. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 28/01/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

December - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown in a pot or rock garden and reasonably tolerant of humidity and excessive moisture. Requires cold treatment to flower, and is very prone to powdery mildew in humid or damp, warm climates.

THREATS

Not Threatened. A narrow range endemic that it is often locally common within the small geographic area it naturally occupies.

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 for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2006). Description adapted from Wilson & Garnock-Jones (1983).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Wilson, H.D.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1983: Taxonomic notes on Stewart Island *Ranunculus* including two new species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 21: 341-345.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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