

Ranunculus subscaposus

SYNONYMS

Ranunculus aucklandicus A.Gray, *R. subantarcticus* F.Fisher et J.Hair

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus subscaposus Hook. f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANSUB

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 | Qualifiers: OL, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (0–500 m a.s.l.) in damp turf, on forest margins, in scrub, along streamsides and swamps and in windswept turf and herbfield.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tufted, non rhizomatous herb. All parts finely covered with long, stiff, yellow-brown, appressed hairs, **Basal leaves** long-petiolate (70–200 mm long), sheaths pilose hairy, lamina 30 × 40 mm, dark green, subreniform, ovate, deltoid-ovate, to deltoid-cuneate, ternate or ternatifid, leaflets and lobes usually 3-lobed again and deeply toothed. **Cauline leaves** similar but smaller, less divided, opposite. **Stems** elongating to 450 mm tall at fruiting; 1–3-flowered. **Flowers** 15–20 mm diameter, initially sessile or shortly pedicellate, peduncle and pedicels elongating at fruiting. **Sepals** 5, 5–8 mm, spreading. **Petals** 5, 5–8 mm long, yellow or brownish-yellow, narrowly obovate, obovate-oblong to oblong, undersides with sparse appressed hairs; nectary single, c. 2 mm from petal base, covered by a small rounded scale. **Fruiting heads** ovoid to globose, 8–10 mm diameter. **Receptacle** cylindrical, papillose-hairy. **Achenes** numerous, flattened, ovoid, to obliquely ovoid, usually sparsely covered with appressed hairs on the angles; body 2–2.5 mm long, beak straight, tapering, flattened, c. 1 mm long.



South West Cape, Auckland Island.

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SIMILAR TAXA

The distinctive long, stiff, appressed yellow-brown (fulvous) hairs, long petioles and small brownish-yellow flowers all readily distinguish *Ranunculus subscaposus* from the glabrescent *R. acaulis* DC and *R. pinguis* Hook.f., which are the only other indigenous *Ranunculus* known to inhabit Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. From the introduced, *R. repens* L. which is also on these islands, it is easily distinguished by its smaller size, non-stoloniferous habit, and by its smaller (up to 10 cf. 14 mm long), obovate, obovate-oblong to oblong, rather than broadly obovate, brownish yellow rather than golden-yellow petals.

FLOWERING

December–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

FRUITING

January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably difficult except in an alpine house.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range island endemic.

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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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-subscaposus/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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