



Caltha novae-zelandiae

Common Name(s):

New Zealand marsh marigold, yellow caltha

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands from the main axial ranges of the North Island south.

Habitat:

Montane to alpine. Mostly in alpine flushes, seepages, around tarns and slow flowing streams. Also found seen in damp areas in open grassland and in similar sites in fell field and herb field

Features*:

Glabrous, rhizomatous perennial of alpine flushes, seepages, bogs and stream sides. Plants forming a low turf with scapes 30-50(-180 mm) tall. Rhizomes stout, white, fleshy. Leaves radical, clustered; petiole up to 100 mm long, slender, grooved, expanded to form a membranous sheathing base. Lamina 8-25 × 4-12 mm, dark green (sometimes centrally blotched and/or marked with bronze), ovate-oblong to oblong, base 2-lobed, subcordate, apex deeply emarginate; margins slightly sinuate to entire; lobes upturned and ± appressed to lamina, almost to midsection of lamina. Scape solitary, short, 1-flowered, finally up to 180 mm long. Sepals 5-7, 10.0-30.0 × 1.8-3.0 mm, pale yellow, 3-nerved, linear-subulate, attenuate. Stamens 15-20; carpels 6-12, ovate in outline, 4-5 mm long; style stout, c.2 mm long. Ripe heads 12-18 mm diameter. Seeds 2-5 per follicle, 1.2- 2.0 mm long, glossy red-brown to dark purple brown, ovate to broadly ovate, or elliptic ovate.

Flowering:

September - December

Fruiting:

December - March

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (28 March 2012). Description by P.J. de Lange.

References and further reading:

Schuettpelz, E.; Hoot, S.B. 2004: Phylogeny and biogeography of *Caltha* (Ranunculaceae) based on chloroplast and nuclear DNA sequences. *American Journal of Botany* 91(2): 247-253.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1203



Caption: Franklin Mountains, Fiordland

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Godley Valley

Photographer: Jane Gosden