



## *Caltha obtusa*

### Common Name(s):

White caltha

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island (from Canterbury southwards)

### Habitat:

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 herb of alpine flushes, seepages, bogs and stream sides. Plants forming a compact turf, when flowering with scapes 20–60 mm tall. Rhizomes stout, fleshy, shortly-creeping, white. Leaves radical, clustered; petioles 8–12 mm long, slender; lamina seldom 8–12 × 7.5–11.0 mm, dark green to yellow green, usually unblemished, sometimes marked with darker bronze blotches and/or streaks, broadly oblong to suborbicular, base 2-lobed, subcordate, apex emarginate, margins crenate to crenate-dentate; lobes upturned, ± appressed to and not much shorter than lamina, crenate. Scapes stout, initially subsessile to sessile, soon elongating, and then up to 60 mm tall. Sepals 5, 8–18 × 6–12 mm, white, obovate, obtuse to acute.

Stamens 10–15; carpels narrow-ovate in outline; styles rather long, slender. Ripe heads 12–18 mm diameter. Seeds 2–5 per follicle, 1.2–1.5 mm long, glossy red-brown to dark purple brown, ovate to broadly ovate, ovate-elliptic or elliptic.

### Flowering:

December - February

### Fruiting:

February - April

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet 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=1204](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1204)



**Caption:** Lammerlaw Range

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Under snow melt, Rastus Burn, Remarkables. Jan 1992.

**Photographer:** Colin Ogle