



Ranunculus macropus

Common Name(s):

Swamp buttercup

Current Threat Status (2012):

Data Deficient

Distribution:

Endemic to the North and northern South Islands. In the North Island formerly widespread from the northern Waikato south to Wellington. Most recent collections come from the western Waikato, Rotorua Lakes District and East Cape to Hawkes Bay. In the northern South Island, apparently always scarce, and there seem to have been no collections made over the last 20 or so years. Recently (2010) a population was found at Canadian Flats on the Taieri River in Otago.

Habitat:

Coastal to lowland. Usually found in raupo (*Typha orientalis*) dominated wetlands where it grows in still moderately deep to deep water.

Features*:

Semi-aquatic to aquatic herb. Rosettes tufted on stout creeping stems. Basal leaves on very stout petioles (7-)15-30(-40) mm x 5-10 mm, arising from bulbous nodes. Leaves ternate (15-)-20-40(-80) mm wide, leaflets sessile or shortly stalked, cuneiform, shallowly 3-fid, apices crenate, serrate or entire, lateral leaflets slightly to distinctly larger than terminal, caulien leaves few, similar to basal but smaller. Flowers (1-)3-5 per stem, 10-15(-20) mm diam., pedicels glabrous. Sepals spreading or weakly recurved, glabrous. Petals (1-)3-5(-7), dark yellow, oblong to broadly oblong, shortly clawed, nectary single, 0.5-1(-1.5) mm from petal base. Receptacle with basal collar of bristles. Achenes 15-50(-65), hardly flattened, glabrous 1.5-2 mm, beak straight, 1-1.5 mm long.

Flowering:

September - April (but sporadic flowering may occur at anytime of the year)

Fruiting:

October - July

Threats:

Threatened by wetland drainage, modification and the spread of weeds. In large parts of its former range hybrids are now more commonly encountered than the actual species.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003). Description based on Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988) and fresh specimens

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer

Cheeseman, T.F. 1925: *Manual of the New Zealand Flora*. Wellington, Government Printer.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV*. Christchurch, DSIR Botany Division.

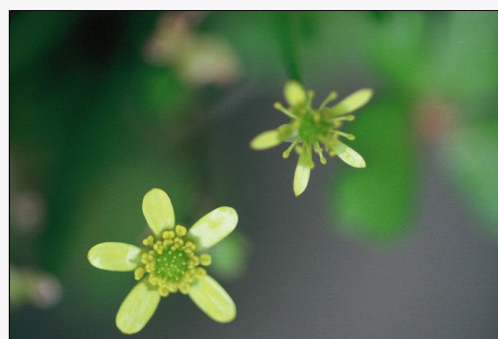
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=198



Caption: Waipori, Waihola Wetlands

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: *Ranunculus macropus* (left bottom side) and *R. amphitrichus* (top right side)

Photographer: Peter de Lange