



Ranunculus recens

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic to the North, South and Stewart Islands. In the North Island only known from one site in the Moawhango, and from the south Taranaki coastline. In the South Island known from North West Nelson, and the Otago and Foveaux Strait coastline. Local at Masons Bay on Stewart Island. Past records from the Chatham Islands remain unconfirmed and modern field surveys suggest they result from misidentification of seedlings of an complex of unnamed buttercups allied to *R. foliosus* and *R. royi*.

Habitat:

Mainly coastal but also alpine in one North Island location. A species of turf and peaty soils developed over freshwater seepages.

Features*:

Tufted, non-rhizomatous herb forming small circular appressed patches 10-50 mm wide. Petiole broad, flat, usually hairy. Leaves yellow-green, dark green, sometimes blotched or entirely chocolate brown, ovate, 3-lobed to about 1.2 toward base, lobes crenate or shallowly pinnatifid, 8-15(-20) mm, sparsely hairy on margins or glabrous. Flowers solitary, 8-10 mm diam., sessile, or rarely on short hairy scapes. Sepals spreading, sparsely hairy. Petals 5, yellow, linear-oblong, nectary single, 0.5 mm from petal base, with very small scale. Receptacle hairy. achenes 30-60, somewhat flattened, glabrous, brick red with dark tips; beak curved 0.5 mm long.

Flowering:

(September-)- October-November

Fruiting:

October -January(-April)

Threats:

A turf species most at risk from weeds and physical damage through trampling by stock and human traffic.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003). Description based on Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988) and fresh specimens - see also de Lange & Murray (2008).

References and further reading:

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

de Lange, P.J.; Murray, B.G. 2008: *Ranunculus ranceorum*, a new name and rank for *Ranunculus recens* var. *lacustris* G.Simpson, an elusive, rarely seen buttercup of the Fiordland lakes, South Island, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 1-11.

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=199



Caption: Otago Peninsula
Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Fruits
Photographer: John Barkla