



## *Oxalis rubens*

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

### **Distribution:**

Indigenous. Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand widespread in the North, South and Chatham Islands.

### **Habitat:**

Mostly coastal (sometimes inland on limestone bluffs) where it is especially common on sand dunes and associated sand soils. Plants usually grow up through other supporting vegetation and are often missed except when in flower.

### **Features\*:**

Perennial herb without bulbils; taproot stout, woody. Stems usually glabrous sometimes covered in sparse antrorse hairs; erect to ascending up to 380 mm long. Leaves all cauline, sometimes subopposite or whorled, 3-foliolate; leaflets sessile, cuneate-obcordate, 2-9 x 2-11 mm, angular, bilobed, purplish-green to subglaucous, more or less glabrous above, sparsely pubescent below, margins ciliate, sinus cut to about half leaflet length, lobes oblong to obovate, straight divergent, apices broad-obtuse, 1.5-7.0 mm apart; petioles c.7-30 mm long, hairs mostly antrorse; stipules usually conspicuous, to 3 mm long, membranous and truncate or apex tapering abruptly to pedicel, ciliate. Inflorescences axillary 1-2-flowered; peduncles longer than leaves, antrorse hairy; pedicels erect. Sepals oblong, 3-4 mm long, often ciliate; petals yellow 7-11 mm long. Capsule cylindrical, 13-24 mm long, thickened in middle, usually densely retrorse-hairy. Seeds transversely ribbed.

### **Flowering:**

September - March

### **Fruiting:**

October - July

### **Threats:**

Not Threatened

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 November 2005. Description adapted from Webb et al. (1988).

### **References and further reading:**

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2213](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2213)



**Caption:** Great Barrier island  
**Photographer:** Rebecca Stanley



**Caption:** Whitiāu Scientific Reserve,  
Whanganui. Nov 2011.  
**Photographer:** Colin Ogle