



## *Ranunculus paucifolius*

### **Common Name(s):**

Castle Hill buttercup

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

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Canterbury)

### **Habitat:**

Montane. Restricted to limestone colluvium and tallus in a gently sloping basin.

### **Features\*:**

Robust, summer-green, glabrous herb, up to 100 mm high. Rhizome up to 180 mm long, stout, sometimes branched, with thick vertical fibres; stock stout, erect or ascending, up to 40 mm long. Rosette leaves 1–20; lamina 20–70 × 20–60 mm, spreading, broadly reniform or broadly orbicular, grey to grey-green, often purplish, nearly entire or divided into 3–5 primary segments, segments usually shallow divided although occasionally up to 3/4 lamina depth, overlapping, margin finely dentate, base cuneate to subreniform; petiole 20–60 × 1.5–4.5 mm; sheath at base, broad. Scape 10–20 mm long, solitary, stout, naked, 1-flowered; reflexed at maturity. Flowers 20–50 mm diameter. Sepals 5, 8–11 × 4–6 mm, pale yellow, deflexed, ovate-oblong, apex subacute. Petals 5–10, 15–20 × 6–13 mm, golden yellow, broadly obovate, obovate to oblanceolate, apex obtuse to rounded, nectary 1–3 simple pits. Stamens 23–38; filament 3.5–5.0 mm long; anthers 1.8–2.2 mm long. Carpels 17–35. Achenes 3.0–4.2 mm long, brown; beak curved, laterally compressed, tapering toward apex.

### **Flowering:**

October–December

### **Fruiting:**

November–January

### **Threats:**

A limestone endemic that is naturally restricted to a very small geographical area. Plants are vulnerable to browse damage from rabbits, hares and sheep, weeds are a constant threat, and seedlings are rarely seen

### **\*Attribution:**

Description based on Kirk (1899), Allan (1961), Fisher (1965) and herbarium specimens.

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

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=2372](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2372)



**Caption:** Castlehill Nature Reserve

**Photographer:** Brian Molloy



**Caption:** *Ranunculus pauciflorus*

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