



Ranunculus brevis

Common Name(s):

None Known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, east of the main divide.

Habitat:

Montane to subalpine (300-1200 m a.s.l.). Usually in shallow muddy, sparsely vegetated pools, or in swamps, river, tarn or lake margins. Never common.

Features*:

Often diminutive tufted, non-rhizomatous perennial herb up to 50 mm tall of open muddy ground, tarn margins, shallow pools and swamps. Plants occasionally producing offset rosettes. Leaves 10-30 mm long, brown-green to bronze-green, deltoid, 1-2-ternatifid, segments linear, finely hairy. Flowers solitary, up to 10 mm diameter, borne on short (up to 40 mm long) erect, hairy scapes. Sepals spreading, glabrous or with sparsely hairy. Petals 5, 2-2.8 x 0.5-1 mm, yellow, oblong-obovate; nectary single, positioned about 1 mm from petal base; scale semi-lunate. Receptacle hairy. Achenes few, body 1.2-2 mm long, scarcely flattened, glabrous, beak 0.3-0.5 mm long, curved at tip.

Flowering:

October - February

Fruiting:

November - March

Threats:

Not very well known. Apparently rather uncommon and sparsely distributed throughout its known range. It is probably threatened by the spread of taller, faster growing wetland weeds, pasture grasses, and habitat loss through drainage or changes in the local hydrologic regime due to irrigation and/or other changes in local land use.

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

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=653