



Ranunculus scritchalis

Common Name(s):

Eyre Mountains buttercup

Current Threat Status (2012):

Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Eyre Mountains.

Habitat:

Alpine (1100-1900 m a.s.l.). Growing in fine, moist clay underlying shingle slides and within stable scree.

Features:

Stout perennial forming small, solitary tufts up to 200 mm tall; rhizome stout, fleshy ascending to trailing (well buried within fine clay and shingle). Leaves usually partially buried in shingle often with just the tips protruding, 30-150 mm long, broadly ovate, dark glaucous-grey to glaucous green, with tips tinged red, broadly ovate, deeply 2-3-terantisect, lamina covered with fine silky hairs; ultimate lobes linear, subacute. Scapes 1-flowered, erect, thickly invested in fine silky hairs. Flowers 20-30 mm diameter. Sepals spreading, narrowly ovate, finely covered with silky hairs. Petals 12-15, up to 15 mm long, lemon yellow, linear-oblong, nectary solitary, c.6 mm from petal base, annular. Receptacle glabrous. Achenes numerous, turgid, sparsely silky hairy; body 2-2.5 mm long, beak 3-3.5 mm long.

Flowering:

December - January

Fruiting:

February - April

Threats:

Apparently very local in its distribution. Probably threatened by browsing animals. This species may be more threatened than is currently believed.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=661



Caption: Eyre Mts – Bowels of the Earth at approximately 1600m

Photographer: Sue Lake



Caption: Eyre Mts – Bowels of the Earth at approximately 1600m

Photographer: Sue Lake