

Hypericum minutiflorum

SYNONYMS

None. First described in December 2008

FAMILY

Hypericaceae

AUTHORITY

Hypericum minutiflorum Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 16$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF

2004 | Serious Decline

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Volcanic Plateau).

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine in depressions, hollows, or wet ground in tussockland, shrubland and river terraces, and tarn or wetland margins.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



In cultivation ex Rangitaiki. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/11/2008, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Rangitaiki. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/11/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbs, perennial, rhizomatous, glabrous. Stems up to 50 mm long, 0.2–0.3 mm diam., usually prostrate, without pellucid glands, quadrangular. Leaves sessile, 1.5–4.5 × 0.3–1.2 mm, narrowly elliptic, oblong, or lanceolate, grey-green to olive-green, usually ruddy on margin and back; pellucid glands up to 0.05 mm diam.; margin planar to slightly sinuate. Inflorescence terminal, occ. axillary, flowers 1–3. Pedicels 0.7–1.8 mm long, dark green to olive-green, often ruddy. Flowers 3–6 mm diam. Sepals 4–5, 1.7–2.8 × 0.6–1.0 mm, oblong to elliptic, dark green to olive-green, usually ruddy margin and distally, width unequal. Petals 5, 2.0–3.3 × 0.9–1.2 mm, yellow, elliptic, pellucid glands absent; margins entire; apex subacute to obtuse. Stamens 7–8, 1.2–2.0 mm long, pale yellow, terete; anthers c. 0.2 mm long, yellow. Ovary 1.4–2.0 mm long, ovoid to broadly ovoid, light green; styles 3(–4), 0.3–0.4 mm long, spreading. Capsule 2.3–2.9 × 1.5–2.5 mm, cylindric to globose, style persistent. Seeds 0.5–0.6 × 0.2–0.3 mm, orange-brown to light yellow, aging to dark brown, oblong-obovate or oblong, terete, semi-glossy.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *H. pusillum* by the rhizomatous and compact growth habit, leaves that are grey-green to olive-green and usually ruddy and with smooth margins, and smaller flowers. *H. pusillum* is a larger and more robust plant, has green leaves with distinctly sinuate margins, and flowers up to 9 mm in diameter. From the closely related *H. rubicundulum*, *H. minutiflorum* differs in having smaller leaves and flowers which are less than 6 mm in diameter

FLOWERING

November–April

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

FRUITING

November–May

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind and water dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown in a small pot kept partially submerged in water. Plants are winter dormant and often die right down to ground level, resprouting in spring. An attractive plant on account of the dark red leaves and bright yellow flowers.

THREATS

Threatened by competition from weeds and loss of its habitat due to forestry and farming. Although this species still occurs at a number of sites, collectively these do not exceed 1 hectare in extent. None of the populations are secure from the threats, and at all known sites *H. minutiflorum* is in decline.

ETYMOLOGY

hypericum: From the Greek hyper (above) and eikon (picture), the plant was hung above pictures to ward off evil spirits

WHERE TO BUY

Can be purchased from specialist nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 July 2008). Description from Heenan (2008)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange et al., 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.

Heenan, P.B. 2008: Three newly recognised species of *Hypericum* (Clusiaceae) from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 547–558.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hypericum-minutiflorum/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hypericum-minutiflorum/>