

Hydrocotyle sulcata

COMMON NAMES

pennywort

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

GENUS

Hydrocotyle

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Hydrocotyle sulcata C.J.Webb et P.N.Johnson

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

EXTRA INFORMATION

Try this handy [Small-leaved Hydrocotyle Identification Guide](#) put together by Chris Ecroyd for our July 2022 issue of Trilepidea (p. 5)

ETYMOLOGY

hydrocotyle: From the Greek hydor 'water' and cotyle 'cup', in reference to the cup-like hollow at the base of the leaf.

sulcata: From the Latin sulcus 'furrow', meaning grooved

NVS CODE

HYDSUL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72



Hydrocotyle sulcata, Mt Cook. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Kakanui Mountains. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened [Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A.T. and Smith, H.A. 1986: *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

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.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hydrocotyle-sulcata/>

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