Hypericum minutiflorum

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow

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.



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.

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

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.

THREATS
Threatened by competition from weeds and loss of it 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.

GENUS
Hypericum

FAMILY
Hypericaceae

AUTHORITY
Hypericum minutiflorum Heenan

SYNONYMS
None. First described in December 2008

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
November–April

FRUITING
November–May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACW: Facultative Wetland
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

CULTIVATION
Can be purchased from specialist nurseries.

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 16

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF
2004 | Serious Decline
Jump to current conservation status

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026