

Hypericum rubicundulum

SYNONYMS

None. First described in December 2008.

FAMILY

Hypericaceae

AUTHORITY

Hypericum rubicundulum 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 Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Kuripapango), South Island (Nelson to Southland except Marlborough and Westland).

HABITAT

A species growing on the margins of lakes and tarns and other wet depressions and seepages in drought-prone and dry-climate areas of inland South Island.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbs, perennial, rhizomatous, glabrous. Stems usually red.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from *Hypericum pusillum* by the rhizomatous growth habit, leaves that are grey-green to olive-green and usually ruddy and without sinuate margins, slightly larger flowers, and seeds with distinct longitudinal ridges.

FLOWERING

November–April

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow



Flower. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Quailburn Tarns. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

FRUITING

November–May

LIFE CYCLE

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy. Best grown in a small pot kept partially submerged in water. An attractive plant on account of the grey-green, reddish leaves and bright yellow flowers.

THREATS

The habitat this species occupies is under considerable pressure throughout much of its range because of water abstraction for dairy farms and residential developments. More survey and monitoring of known populations is needed. Previously regarded (as *Hypericum* aff. *japonicum* (b) (CHR 140620; “tarn”)) as Range Restricted by de Lange et al. (2004), but continued evidence of decline has resulted in its assessment as ‘Threatened – Nationally Endangered’ by de Lange et al. (2018).

ETYMOLOGY

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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- de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR, Barkla JW, Courtney SP, Champion PD, Perrie LR, Beadel SM, Ford KA, Breitwieser I, Schönberger I, Hindmarsh-Walls R, Heenan PB, Ladley K. 2018. Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017. *New Zealand Threat Classification Series* 22. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 82 p. <https://www.doc.govt.nz/globalassets/documents/science-and-technical/nztcs22entire.pdf>.
- Heenan PB. 2008. Three newly recognised species of *Hypericum* (Clusiaceae) from New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46(4): 547–558. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00288250809509784>.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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