Hypericum rubicundulum

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, 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 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.

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.

THREATS
The habitat this speciest 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 it assessment as ‘Threatened – Nationally Endangered’ by de Lange et al. (2018).

GENUS
Hypericum

FAMILY
Hypericaceae

AUTHORITY
Hypericum rubicundulum Heenan

SYNONYMS
None. First described in December 2008.

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

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

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

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
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.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
OBL: Obligate Wetland
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

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

NVS CODE
HYPRUB

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 16

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, RR
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP
2004 | Range Restricted
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, PF, RR, Sp 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
de Lange PJ, Norton DA, Heenan PB, Courtney SP, Molloy BPJ, Ogle CC, Rance BD, Johnson PN, Hitchmough R. 2004. Threatened and uncommon plants of New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 42(1)*: 45–76. https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2004.9512890.
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.

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-rubicundulum/

PDF DATE

25 May 2026