

Ranunculus acaulis

COMMON NAME

sand buttercup, shore buttercup

SYNONYMS

Ranunculus petriei Allan

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus acaulis DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANACA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2018 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand (North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands). Also Australia (Tasmania), South America (Chile) and the Falkland Islands.

HABITAT

Coastal and occasionally inland. Usually in saltmarsh or meadow, muddy ground near tidal creeks, on rock platforms or rock stacks, Occasionally on salt pans, limestone bluffs and along lake margins.

FEATURES

Perennial, mat-forming; rosettes tufted along pale, spreading, slender rhizomes. Leaves long-petiolate; lamina dark bronze-green to dark green, fleshy, glabrous, trifoliate or deeply 3-lobed, 5-15(-20) mm diameter; lobes bluntly obovate, entire to shallowly toothed, terminal lobe entire or 3-fid, rounded to obtuse at apex, lateral lobes entire or with 1 basiscopic lobe. Flowers solitary, 5-10 mm diameter; scapes ± sessile, or very short, peduncles glabrous. Sepals spreading, glabrous. Petals 5-8, greenish-yellow, narrowly oblong or spatulate; nectary single, 1.5-2.0 mm from petal base, pocket-like. Receptacle glabrous. Achenes (6-)10-12(-30), not flattened, glabrous; body 2-3 mm long; beak straight, 0.5-1.0 mm long.



Chatham Island. Sep 2007. Photographer: Peter Heenan



Chatham Island. Sep 2007. Photographer: Peter Heenan

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from other buttercups by the glabrous receptacle, fleshy, obovate, entire, bluntly toothed or shallowly lobed leaves with the apex of the terminal lobe rounded or broadly obtuse, and by the straight achene beak.

FLOWERING

August - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

September - July

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. An attractive pot plant.

ETYMOLOGY

ranunculus: From the Latin 'rana' frog, meaning little frog and probably refers to the plants typical marshy habit where frogs abound

acaulis: From the Greek a-, without; kaulos, stalk, stem, meaning stemless, or seemingly so.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 June 2013).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-acaulis/>