

Ranunculus haastii

COMMON NAMES

Haast's buttercup

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RF

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout, fleshy, glaucous, summer green perennial herb, 50-150 mm tall, all parts coriaceous; glabrous except for leaf sheath margins. Rhizomes stout, fleshy, 150-200 mm long, often branching, 10-20 mm diam., marked by scars of old leaf bases and vascular strands, oozing viscid and milky latex when damaged; roots stout, 500-800 x 2-5 mm, laterally branching at apices. Achenes glabrous. Body obovate (3.5-)4.0-5.5 mm long; surface dull, pale brown, to dark brown, tinted orange and purple brown, Beak (3.5-)4.0-5.5(-6.5) mm long, curved.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished by the mobile scree habit, glaucous, glabrous, deeply incised leaves (with fine hairs present on the leaf sheaths), whose segments are divided 5-7-lobed.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Eastern side of the main. divided from southern Marlborough south through Canterbury to the Ben Ohau Range.

HABITAT

High alpine inhabiting fine-grained shingle-slide screes.

GENUS

Ranunculus

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus haastii Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Ranunculus haastii Hook.f. subsp. haastii

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No



Craigieburn Skifield, Canterbury. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Craigieburn Range. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 14/11/2020, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - December

FRUITING

November - January

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

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

haastii: Honours the New Zealand geologist and botanist Sir Julius von Haast (1822-87)

NVS CODE

RANHAA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RF

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: De, DP, EF, RF

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: De, DP, EF, RF

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Fisher, F.J.F. 1965: The alpine *Ranunculi* of New Zealand. *Bulletin, New Zealand Department of Scientific and Industrial Research* 165: 1-192.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 February 2007). Description based on Fisher (1965).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 June 2026