

# Ranunculus haastii

## COMMON NAME

Haast's buttercup

## SYNONYMS

*Ranunculus haastii* Hook.f. subsp. *haastii*

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ranunculus haastii* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANHAA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

2004 | Not Threatened

## 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.

## 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.



Foggy Peak, Torlesse range, December.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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

## FLOWERING

September - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## 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)

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## 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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Ranunculus haastii* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-haastii/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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