

# Ranunculus limosella

## COMMON NAME

mud buttercup

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

Ranunculus limosella Kirk

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANLIM

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Gradual Decline

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands from Lake Whangape south.

## HABITAT

Coastal to lowland. Usually found in raupō (*Typha orientalis*) dominated wetlands where it grows in still moderately deep to deep water.

## FEATURES

Small perennial herb. Leaves in rosettes, tufted along a slender, creeping, buried stem; linear to spoon-shaped, not toothed, hairless, with long stems, up to 14cm long when permanently submerged. Flowers yellow to purple, solitary, 6-8mm diameter, with 4 linear petals and 4 spreading sepals; on stalks 1-2cm tall.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Limosella lineata*. Leaves of mud buttercup are linear to spoon-shaped, slightly curved, with a smaller leaf sheath than *Limosella lineata*, which has purely linear leaves. Other buttercups have toothed or lobed leaves. Mud buttercup has buried stems, while *Limosella lineata* stems creep along the surface.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, Yellow, Red/Pink

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy to grow from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Best in a pond or kept in semi-submerged pots.



Close up. Photographer: Colin Ogle



Photographer: Colin Ogle

## THREATS

Habitat modification, eutrophication from uncontrolled nutrient run off, fertilisers, and drains are major problems throughout its range. Invasive aquatic weeds are a problem in many areas.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**limosella:** From the Latin 'limosus' mud, refers to the habit of growing in mud

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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