

Ranunculus lyallii

COMMON NAME

giant buttercup, great mountain buttercup, Mount Cook buttercup, Mount Cook lily

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus lyallii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

RANLYA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to South and Stewart island.

HABITAT

Apparently confined to montane and subalpine herbfield and creek sides.

FLOWERING

October - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

November - March

THREATS

Vulnerable to browsing mammals, in particular hares, chamois, deer and tahr.



Upper Hollyford, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Upper Hollyford, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

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

lyallii: Named after David Lyall (1817-1895), 19th century Scottish naturalist and surgeon with the Royal Navy, who explored Antarctica, New Zealand, the Arctic and North America and was a lifelong friend of Sir Joseph Hooker.

An early English common name for this plant 'Mount Cook Lily' refers perhaps to the practice of naming any plants with large white flowers lilies regardless of what family they belong to.

The name Mount Cook lily is misleading as this plant is not confined to the Aoraki/Mount Cook area nor is it a lily.

MORE INFORMATION

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