

# Ranunculus maculatus

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

Ranunculus maculatus Cockayne et Allan

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANMCL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 32

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from south western Canterbury to Otago and northern Southland.

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine in turf on lake and tarn margins, in bogs, seepages amongst short tussock grasses and in alpine flushes and cushion bogs.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Old Man Range (Jan). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Dunstan Range. Photographer: John Barkla

## FEATURES

Short, tufted, sparsely hairy to glabrate perennial up to 50 mm tall forming small solitary or multiple rosettes. Petioles of cauline leaves up to 16 mm long, sheath 14 x 3 mm, membranous, very hairy, petioles and sheath mottled purple-green or completely purple-black. Cauline leaves 9 x 10 mm, dark green flecked with dark brown, brown, purple-brown or black, broadly elliptic, obovate-cuneate, obovate or orbicular, deeply 3-lobed, sparsely hairy or glabrous (hairs if present concentrated toward lamina margins). Scape apparently sessile to subsessile at flowering, elongating to 50 mm or toward the apex where glabrous. Flowers solitary, 8-10 mm diameter; sepals 5, 3 x 2 mm, broad-ovate, sparsely hairy to glabrous spreading at maturity, fugaceous; petals 5, 5 x 2 mm, yellow, oblong-obovate to spatulate; nectary single, 1-1.5 mm from petal base, shallow, pocket-like. receptacle hairy. Achenes 15-25, 1.5-1.9 mm long, dull brown, often blotched dark purple-brown or completely dark purple-brown, elliptic, ovate-elliptic or obovate-elliptic; beak usually curled or hooked to dorsal side, sometimes straight, 0.2-0.5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Belongs to a group of ranunculi where although the flowers are sessile to subsessile the peduncle greatly elongates after flowering. Of those species *R. maculatus* is perhaps closest to *R. royi* G.Simpson from which it differs by the 3-lobed, rather than 3-5-lobed leaves which are either glabrous or scattered with fine hairs particularly toward the lamina margins. In *R. royi* the leaves are densely and evenly covered in hairs, and while the lobes of *R. maculatus* are entire those of *R. royi* are always toothed or crenate. In *R. maculatus* the peduncles are always glabrous toward the extremities. Fruiting specimens of *R. maculatus* have 15-25 achenes rather than the 25-35 seen in *R. royi*.

## FLOWERING

November - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

December - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed but prone to powdery mildew in moist or humid climates.

## THREATS

Not Threatened. An apparently widespread, and at times locally common but generally biologically sparse species.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**maculatus:** From the Latin maculatus 'blotched'

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (30 August 2003). Description based on Allan (1961), Webb et al. (1988) and fresh specimens.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV*. Christchurch, DSIR Botany Division.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Ranunculus maculatus* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-maculatus/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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