

Ranunculus mirus

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)



CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb. Rosettes small, tufted. Rhizomes absent. Rosette leaves on long hairy petioles (hairs subappressed); lamina bright green to dark green, deeply 3-ternate, densely covered in subappressed hairs; leaflets stalked, obovate, shallowly to deeply 3-lobed, toothed, 7-15 x 10-18 mm. Cauline leaves 1-3, small, sessile or shortly petiolate, lanceolate-entire or obovate-trifid. Flowers 18-25 mm diameter, solitary or 2-3-flowered; pedicels covered with subappressed hairs. Sepals spreading, hispid. Petals 5, 1.6-2(-3) mm long, bright yellow, obovate; nectary 1mm from petal base, single, covered by a small narrow-oblong scale. Receptacle hairy. Achenes 15-20 in globose heads, dark brown to dark brownish-purple, flattened, glabrous or with a few sparse bristles; body 2.5-3 x 2-2.5 mm; beak 1-1.5 mm long, curved with hooked apex.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Ranunculus reflexus* Garn.-Jones and potentially easily confused with *R. foliosus* Kirk. From *R. reflexus* it differs in its appressed stem, petiole and leaf hairs, ternate to ternatifid leaves, spreading sepals and fewer (15-30 cf. 40-100), larger, darker achenes (which sometimes bear 1-2 bristles), and by its 1-1.5 rather than 0.7-1 mm long achene beak. From *R. foliosus* it differs by its appressed rather than spreading stem, petiole and leaf hairs, and by its long (1-1.5 cf. 0.5-1 mm) beaked achenes.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, north-west Nelson where it is found in the Kahurangi National Park on the Peel Range and Mt Arthur south to the Wangapeka Range.

HABITAT

Alpine (1200-1500 m a.s.l.). A karst endemic of marble and limestone soils and karrenfield. Usually found growing in amongst short grasses and herbfield.

THREATS

A narrow range endemic. Plants are believed to be secure within their alpine habitat.

GENUS

Ranunculus

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus mirus Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1987)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably quite easily grown. However, most alpine buttercups are prone to powdery mildew infections at low altitudes and dislike humidity.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ETYMOLOGY

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

NVS CODE

RANMIR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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