Ranunculus reflexus

COMMON NAMES
hairy buttercup, maru, maruru, kopukapuka, pirikau

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
Non-rhizomatous, tufted perennial, (0.1-)0.3-0.8(-1.0) m tall. Stems erect, with hairs spreading below, appressed above. Basal leaves usually pinnate, rarely 3-foliolate or 3-lobed, hairy; leaflets stalked, ovate or obovate, entire or shallowly to deeply 3-lobed, toothed, very variable in size, 10-50(-60) mm diameter. Cauline leaves similar, smaller, often merely 3-lobed; lobes narrower. Flowers 3 or more per stem, 8-15 mm diameter. Pedicels terete to sulcate, up to 300 mm long, with appressed hairs. Sepals reflexed at flowering, hairy. Petals 5, yellow, narrow-oblong to narrow-obovate; nectary single, c. 0.5 mm from petal base, covered by a small oblong scale. Receptacle hairy. Achenes 40-80-(100), in ovoid heads, small and pale, moderately flattened, glabrous; body 1.5-2.0 mm long; beak often dark, hooked, 0.7-1.0 mm.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: North, South, Stewart, Chatham and Auckland Islands.

GENUS
Ranunculus

FAMILY
Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY
Ranunculus reflexus Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACU: Facultative Upland
Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/12/2006, Licence: CC BY.

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ETYMOLOGY

ranunculus: From the Latin ‘rana’ frog, meaning little frog and probably refers to the plants typical marshy habit where frogs abound
reflexus: Bent backwards

NVS CODE

RANREF

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland” Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: TL Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1987. Orthographic Changes for Names of New Zealand Vascular Plants. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 25*: 115-170.
Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1990. Typification of Ranunculus names in New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 28: 115-123.
Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988. *Flora of New Zealand. Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. Botany Division, D.S.I.R, Christchurch, New Zealand.

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted from Webb et al. (1988).
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MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ranunculus-reflexus/

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