

Ranunculus viridis

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Ranunculus viridis H.D.Wilson et Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL, St

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Stewart Island, Tin Range

HABITAT

Subalpine (c.700 m a.s.l.) in damp shaded sites, on ledges, hollows, crevices and clefts of rock outcrops in subalpine scrub.



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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb forming rosettes 80-100 mm diameter, or compact patches up to 300 mm diameter. Rhizome stout, 4-8 mm diameter, apex covered in long persistent, fibrous petiolar remnants; roots numerous, fleshy 1.5 mm diameter. Petiole 15-30 mm long, base broadly sheathing, covered in fine cobwebbed hairs, deeply grooved on upper surface. Leaves 20-40 mm diameter, bright green above paler beneath, both surfaces very glossy, deltoid to orbicular or sub-reniform, thick and rigidly firm, lamina divided about 3/4 of the way into the 3-5-lobed segments, sparsely hairy, lobe apices surmounted by a penicillate hair tuft. Flowers 25-30 mm diameter, solitary initially on very short peduncles; these elongating at fruiting to c.30-50 mm length and broadening toward apex; ebracteate, green, usually purple-stained at base, clad in fine, cobwebbed hairs. Flowers with 5 sepals, these 15 mm long, greenish-yellow, finely hairy beneath, glabrescent above, broadly oblong-obovate, apices emarginate; petals 5 not or scarcely exceeding sepals, 10-12 x 6-8 mm, basal third green otherwise bright yellow, oblong to oblong-obovate, apex cucullate, base abruptly narrowed; nectary comprising 3 pits per petal with the central pit the largest; receptacle glabrescent, pale yellow-green. Fruiting head compact, 12 mm diameter, globose to ovoid. Achenes numerous, 1.9-2.6 mm long, semi glossy brown, obovate to broadly obovate, beak straight, tapering, 2-2.6 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Part of a small group of alpine ranunculi, with which species it shares some broad similarities with *R. pinguis* and *R. sericophyllus*. *Ranunculus pinguis* and *R. viridis* both have somewhat similar sparingly pilose to glabrous leaves, broad leaf segments and rather short petals which taper toward the base. *Ranunculus viridis* resembles *R. sericophyllus* in having penicillate hair tufts on the leaf segments and apices; the presence of fine cobwebbed hairs on the petiole bases and scapes, deeply divided leaves, broad petals, and especially by the 3 nectary pits. In some respects it is intermediate between both these species, but as it is allopatric from both and forms a stable, true breeding population, its claim to species rank seems clear. In other respects it is close to *R. recens* from which it differs by the flexible, softly hairy, rather than rigidly brittle, sparsely, stiffly hairy leaves; by the presence of penicillate hair tufts on the leaf segment apices (absent in *R. recens*); scapes 20 cf 10 mm long; brown rather than red straight rather than hooked achenes. It is allopatric from *R. recens* which on Stewart Island is a coastal species found only on sandy beaches and dune systems.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

FRUITING

December - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown from cultivation. However, likely to be rather difficult to maintain.

THREATS

This species is an extremely narrow-range endemic, which so far is only known from a very small area on the upper slopes of Mt Allen, on the Tin Range.

ETYMOLOGY

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

viridis: From the Latin viridis 'green'

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 14 April 2006. Description adapted from Wilson & Garnock-Jones (1983) - see also de Lange et al. (2010).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

Wilson, H.D.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1983: Taxonomic notes on Stewart Island Ranunculus including two new species. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 21: 341-345.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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