

# Ranunculus subscaposus

## SYNONYMS

*Ranunculus aucklandicus* A.Gray, *R. subantarcticus* F.Fisher et J.Hair

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ranunculus subscaposus* Hook. f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

RANSUB

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## 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 | Qualifiers: OL, IE

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine (0–500 m a.s.l.) in damp turf, on forest margins, in scrub, along streamsides and swamps and in windswept turf and herbfield.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial tufted, non rhizomatous herb. All parts finely covered with long, stiff, yellow-brown, appressed hairs, **Basal leaves** long-petiolate (70–200 mm long), sheaths pilose hairy, lamina 30 × 40 mm, dark green, subreniform, ovate, deltoid-ovate, to deltoid-cuneate, ternate or ternatifid, leaflets and lobes usually 3-lobed again and deeply toothed. **Cauline leaves** similar but smaller, less divided, opposite. **Stems** elongating to 450 mm tall at fruiting; 1–3-flowered. **Flowers** 15–20 mm diameter, initially sessile or shortly pedicellate, peduncle and pedicels elongating at fruiting. **Sepals** 5, 5–8 mm, spreading. **Petals** 5, 5–8 mm long, yellow or brownish-yellow, narrowly obovate, obovate-oblong to oblong, undersides with sparse appressed hairs; nectary single, c. 2 mm from petal base, covered by a small rounded scale. **Fruiting heads** ovoid to globose, 8–10 mm diameter. **Receptacle** cylindrical, papillose-hairy. **Achenes** numerous, flattened, ovoid, to obliquely ovoid, usually sparsely covered with appressed hairs on the angles; body 2–2.5 mm long, beak straight, tapering, flattened, c. 1 mm long.



South West Cape, Auckland Island.

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## SIMILAR TAXA

The distinctive long, stiff, appressed yellow-brown (fulvous) hairs, long petioles and small brownish-yellow flowers all readily distinguish *Ranunculus subscaposus* from the glabrescent *R. acaulis* DC and *R. pinguis* Hook.f., which are the only other indigenous *Ranunculus* known to inhabit Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku. From the introduced, *R. repens* L. which is also on these islands, it is easily distinguished by its smaller size, non-stoloniferous habit, and by its smaller (up to 10 cf. 14 mm long), obovate, obovate-oblong to oblong, rather than broadly obovate, brownish yellow rather than golden-yellow petals.

## FLOWERING

December–January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Brown, Yellow

## FRUITING

January–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Probably difficult except in an alpine house.

## THREATS

Not Threatened. Listed because it is a narrow range island endemic.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024