

# Flora of South Australia

5th Edition



Photograph: Helen Owens

© Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources,  
Government of South Australia

All rights reserved

Copyright of illustrations might reside with other institutions or  
individuals. Please enquire for details.

Department of  
Environment,  
Water and  
Natural Resources

**Contact:**

Dr Jürgen Kellermann  
Editor, *Flora of South Australia* (ed. 5)  
State Herbarium of South Australia  
PO Box 2732  
Kent Town SA 5071  
Australia  
email: [juergen.kellermann@sa.gov.au](mailto:juergen.kellermann@sa.gov.au)



Government  
of South Australia



# Flora of South Australia

5th Edition | Edited by Jürgen Kellermann

## RANUNCULACEAE<sup>1</sup>

H. Eichler<sup>2</sup>, J.A. Jeanes<sup>3</sup> & N.G. Walsh<sup>3</sup>

Herbs, usually terrestrial perennials, some waterplants and some annuals, rarely small shrubs or woody climbers; leaves alternate, in a basal rosette, or rarely opposite or whorled, compound or simple, often palmately lobed or dissected, petioles often with sheathing base, usually without stipules. **Inflorescences** of solitary flowers or cymose, flowers hypogynous, usually regular, bisexual, nectar-secreting and insect-pollinated, some zygomorphic, rarely wind-pollinated; perianth petaloid or sepaloid, whorled or spirally arranged, undifferentiated or consisting of calyx and corolla, the latter formed usually of petaloid nectaries (sometimes termed 'honey-leaves', here treated as petals), rarely of true petals (*Adonis*), usually 5 or more, rarely reduced to 2, 1 or 0; stamens usually many (rarely 2 or 1), spirally arranged; filaments free, anthers extrorse, opening in longitudinal slits, rarely with connective appendages; carpels many to 1, free and spirally arranged or more or less fused and in 1 whorl; style usually well developed; ovules many to 1, ventral or basal, anatropous; integuments 1 or 2. **Fruit** of (usually) many (rarely 1) follicles or achenes, or rarely a berry or capsule; seeds usually with a small embryo and oily endosperm; germination usually epigeal.

About 60 genera and c. 2500 species, cosmopolitan, predominantly N hemisphere, many alpine. In Australia 10 genera of which 5 are introduced.

Mostly poisonous to stock and humans (glycosides and alkaloids), some medicinal, several horticultural (e.g. *Aconitum*, *Anemone*, *Aquilegia*, *Clematis*, *Delphinium*, *Nigella*) and sometimes escaping. *Nigella damascena* L. (Love-in-a-mist), is a commonly grown ornamental to c. 50 cm high with finely dissected leaves and bracts subtending the attractive white to sky blue or purplish sepals and smaller petals. It sometimes escapes weakly from gardens and has been collected near Crafers and Wirrabara. It does not appear to maintain populations in the wild.

Reference: Tamara (1993), Eichler *et al.* (2007), Culham (2007).

- 1. Climbing shrubs; leaves opposite; stem woody ..... 3. **Clematis**
- 1: Herbs; leaves basal and/or cauline and alternate; stem herbaceous
  - 2. Flowers zygomorphic; 1 of the 5 sepals spurred; fruit a follicle..... 4. **Consolida**
  - 2: Flowers regular; sepals without a spur, or (in *Myosurus*) all 5 sepals spurred; fruit a head or spike of many achenes
    - 3. Leaves linear, all basal; flowers very small, solitary on scapes; fruit a slender subulate spike..... 5. **Myosurus**
    - 3: Leaves lobed, dissected or compound, usually some along the stem; flowers solitary or in inflorescences; fruit a globular or elongated head or short cylindrical spike
      - 4. Flowering stem with a whorl of 5 pinnately dissected involucral bracts immediately below flower; fruit capsular..... **Nigella**

<sup>1</sup> This work can be cited as: Eichler, H., Jeanes, J.A. & Walsh, N.G. (2011). Ranunculaceae (version 1). In: Kellermann, J. (ed.), *Flora of South Australia* (ed. 5). 18 pp. (State Herbarium of South Australia: Adelaide). [www.flora.sa.gov.au/ed5](http://www.flora.sa.gov.au/ed5)

<sup>2</sup> Deceased.

<sup>3</sup> National Herbarium of Victoria, Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, Private Bag 2000, South Yarra, VIC 3141, Australia.

© Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of South Australia. ISBN 978-1-922027-05-4 (PDF).  
Publication date: 26 Oct. 2011.



Government  
of South Australia

Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources

- 4: Flowering stem lacking a whorl of involucre bracts; fruit a head or spike of achenes
- 5: Petals without nectaries..... 1. **Adonis**
- 5: Petals with nectaries at or above the base
- 6: Petals white with a yellow claw; aquatic plants; leaves divided into capillary segments; ripe achenes transversely rugose; leaf-sheath stipuloid..... 2. **Batrachium**
- 6: Petals yellow; usually terrestrial or swamp plants; leaves usually lobed or compound, rarely divided into linear segments; ripe achenes smooth, irregularly rugose or tuberculate but not distinctly transversely rugose; leaf-sheath gradually tapering into the petiole ..... 6. **Ranunculus**

## 1. ADONIS L.

*Sp. Pl.* 1: 547 (1753).

(In Greek mythology the name of a beautiful youth, beloved of Persephone and Aphrodite, who was killed by a wild boar and from whose blood grew the flower *Adonis*.)

Prepared by H. Eichler (updated by J.A. Jeanes)

Annual (or perennial) herbs with branching leafy stems; leaves alternate, 2–4-pinnate with narrow-linear segments. **Flowers** regular, usually solitary, terminal, bisexual, on bractless peduncles; perianth segments not spurred; sepals 5, rarely to 8, appressed or spreading, glabrous or pilose, sometimes petaloid and/or caducous; petals 3–20, intensely coloured, glossy, yellow or red, without claw or nectaries; stamens numerous; carpels numerous; ovules with 2 integuments. **Achenes** numerous, transversely veined and rugose, glabrous or hairy, at maturity forming an elongated head; fruiting receptacle cylindrically elongated or conical.

About 35 species; native to temperate Eurasia and the Mediterranean area; in Australia, 1 species introduced as a garden ornamental, occasionally escaping and becoming naturalised in all mainland States and also with one record from Flinders Island, Tas.

Some species contain pharmaceutically used glycosides (similar to *Digitalis*) (Kloot 1976).

Reference: Kloot (1976).

1. \***Adonis microcarpa** DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 223 (1817). — *A. autumnalis* auct. non L.: J.M.Black, *Fl. S. Austral.* ed. 2, 2: 364 (1948); *A. annua* auct. non L.: H.Eichler, *Suppl. J.M.Black's Fl. S. Austral.* 149–150 (1965); *A. aestivalis* auct. non L.: H.Eichler *Suppl. J.M.Black's Fl. S. Austral.* 2nd edn, 149–150 (1965). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 167 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 40, fig. 4C–D (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 356, fig. 67A–F (2007).

Erect annual herb, 10–50 cm high; stem usually branched, sparsely villous towards base, glabrous above; leaves 2- or 3-pinnate, to 6 cm long, with linear, acute segments, glabrous. **Flowers** solitary, 15–25 mm diam., on peduncles 1–5 cm long, terminal on stem and branches; sepals appressed to spreading, ovate-oblong, 5–12 mm long, glabrous, dark purplish brown; petals 5–10, suberect, obovate, 7–15 mm long, longer than the sepals, usually yellow, rarely bright-red, with a black basal spot; stamens numerous; anthers dark-purple; carpels 10–50. **Achenes** 2.5–4 mm long, arranged in a ±cylindrical head 15–25 mm long, each with a short straight green beak, the upper projection on the inner margin close to the beak. **Pheasant's eye. Fig. 1A–D.**

S.A.: \*FR, \*EP, \*NL, \*MU, \*YP, \*SL, \*KI, \*SE; \*W.A.; \*N.T.; \*Qld.; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to southern Europe. In S.A. it occurs as a weed mainly in barley and wheat fields in the NL and northern YP regions. Flowers: Aug.–Dec.

(Proclaimed plant in S.A.)

## 2. BATRACHIUM (DC.) Gray

*Nat. Arr. Brit. Pl.* 2: 720 (1821).

(Greek *batrachos*, a frog; in allusion to the aquatic habit; *batrachium* was used as a plant name by Hippocrates and Pliny.)

Prepared by H. Eichler (updated by J.A. Jeanes)

*Ranunculus* sect. *Batrachium* DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 232, 233 (1817); *Ranunculus* subg. *Batrachium* (DC) A.Gray, *Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts & Sci.* 21: 363 (1886).

Aquatic annuals or perennials, ± glabrous; stems branching, herbaceous; leaves mostly cauline, alternate, submerged and finely dissected into capillary segments and/or floating and with a lobed or partite lamina; leaf bases membranous, laterally partly adnate to the petiole. **Flowers** bisexual, actinomorphic, solitary, terminal, seemingly leaf-opposed along the stems, on bractless peduncles; perianth segments not spurred; sepals 5, caducous, shorter than petals, light-green, in some with blue tinge, sometimes deflexed before falling; petals usually 5, usually white, matt above, with a yellow claw (in all but 1 species); nectary pit near petal-base, small, bordered by a lunate, circular or pyriform scale; receptacle globular to pyriform; stamens few or many. **Achenes** 4–90, ± globose to broadly obovoid; pericarp on lateral walls with regular transverse ridges 0.05–0.1 mm apart, glabrous or hairy; beak usually caducous.

About 20 species, almost cosmopolitan but predominantly in Eurasia, N Africa, S Africa, N America and SE Australia (possibly introduced).

1. ***Batrachium trichophyllum*** (Chaix) Bosch, *Prod. Fl. Bat.* 1: 5 (1850). — *Ranunculus trichophyllum* Chaix in Vill., *Hist. Pl. Dauphiné.* 1: 335 (1786). *R. aquatilis* auct. non L.: J.M.Black, *Fl. S. Austral.* ed. 2, 2: 363 (1948). — **Illustr.:** H.I.Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Australia* 164 fig. 62 (1973) as *Ranunculus trichophyllum*; *Fl. Victoria* 3: 60 fig. 12 (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 311 fig. 59L–O (2007).

Aquatic annual or perennial herb; stems hollow, rooting at lower nodes; petioles 0.25–4 cm long; leaf lamina globose to obconical, 1.5–4.5 cm long, repeatedly di- or trichotomously divided into rigid or flaccid capillary segments, which spread in 3 dimensions, lobed leaves absent; basal sheath oblong to ovate, adnate to petiole for c. 2/3 of their length. **Peduncles** 1–5 cm long, placing the flowers above the water surface, usually recurved after anthesis; sepals narrow-ovate, 2.5–3.5 mm long, spreading, caducous, greenish and blue-tipped; petals ovate to obovate, 3.5–5.5 mm long, not contiguous during anthesis, white with a yellow claw; nectary-scale lunate; receptacle globular, hairy; stamens 9–15; carpels 16–33, hairy when immature, occasionally glabrous when mature. **Achenes** ovoid to obovoid, 1.5–2 mm long, usually sparsely hairy; beak subterminal, very short. **Water buttercup, water fennel. Fig. 1E–H.**

S.A.: FR, ?EP, ?YP, NL, MU, SL, KI, .SE; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Native to Europe, Asia and central N America, possibly introduced in Australia. In S.A. in fresh-water ponds and slow streams. Flowers: Oct.–Feb.

The Australian specimens seem to match European material more closely than specimens from N.Z., which have glabrous achenes. There is, however, considerable variation within Australia, which appears to be both genotypical and caused by different habitat conditions. The presence of many 19<sup>th</sup> century Australian collections, as well as collections from remote, relatively pristine habitats, suggests that the species is probably native.

### 3. CLEMATIS L.

*Sp. Pl.* 1: 543 (1753).

(Greek name of various climbing plants; Greek *klema*, a shoot, tendril.)

Prepared by H. Eichler (updated by J.A. Jeanes)

Woody climbers (perennial herbs or shrubs); leaves opposite, usually once or twice ternate or 1–4 times pinnate, rarely simple; petioles and petiolules often twining and acting as tendrils. **Flowers** in dichasial panicles or solitary, regular, bisexual or plants dioecious; perianth segments valvate, rarely imbricate, usually 4 (rarely to 8), petaloid; male flowers with numerous stamens; anthers often with a terminal connective-appendage; sometimes with more or less petaloid staminodes grading into stamens; female flowers with numerous carpels, usually with 1 whorl of staminodes, ovule solitary. **Fruit** a globular head of 1-seeded achenes, each with a persistent long and often plumose style. **Old man's beard, clematis.**

About 300 species; cosmopolitan, especially of temperate regions of the Northern Hemisphere; in Australia 14 endemic species, 2 introduced.

The word 'flammuliform' is used in the key and descriptions below to describe the complicated division of leaves of some species where the leaf is cleft into five primary divisions, which are then ternately divided. This leads to a typical condition of 15 leaflets, but by further or incomplete division, there may be as few as 12 or as many as 36 leaflets. The term is derived from *Clematis flammula* whose leaves demonstrate this type of division.

1. Leaves ternate or imparipinnate, with 5 (–7) or fewer leaflets
  2. Plants deciduous, with bisexual flowers..... 6. **C. vitalba**
  - 2: Plants evergreen, dioecious ..... 1. **C. aristata**
- 1: Leaves biternate, triternate or flammuliform, with more than 5 leaflets
  3. Plants deciduous, with bisexual flowers..... 3. **C. flammula**
  - 3: Plants evergreen, dioecious
    4. Leaves usually biternate with up to 9 (–12) leaflets, sometimes with leaflets lobed ..... 5. **C. microphylla**
    - 4: Leaves flammuliform to triternate, with more than 12 leaflets (rarely fewer in some immature leaves)
      5. Leaflets usually 12–15 per leaf, broadest below middle; terminal leaflet 12–45 mm long..... 2. **C. decipiens**
      - 5: Leaflets usually 18–36 per leaf, broadest beyond middle; terminal leaflet 5–15 (–25) mm long ..... 4. **C. leptophylla**

1. **Clematis aristata** R.Br. ex Ker Gawl., *Bot. Reg.* 3: t. 238 (1817). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. Victoria* 3: 40 fig. 4H–K (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 283 plate 51 (2007).

Dioecious strong woody climber to 15 m or more high; leaves ternate; leaflets ovate to deltate, 2.5–9 × 1–5 cm, serrate or sometimes entire, ± acute, usually glabrous. **Flowers** in numerous axillary panicles, to c. 7 cm in diam.; perianth segments usually 4, caducous, oblong-narrowly ovate, 1.3–3.5 cm long, pubescent below, densely white-tomentose at margin, glabrous above, creamy-white; stamens 4–15 mm long, filaments glabrous; anthers linear-oblong, 1.5–4 mm long, with a subulate appendage 1–3 mm long; staminodes present. **Achenes** compressed-ovoid 5–7 × 2–3.5 mm, shortly pubescent, rarely glabrous, smooth, brown, margins slightly thickened; style plumose, 2.8–2.8 cm long. **Mountain clematis.**

S.A.: SE; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Widespread in eastern Australia mostly in wetter montane forests, but extending to drier open forests. Flowers: Sep.–Jan.

(Vulnerable status in S.A.)

2. **Clematis decipiens** H.Eichler ex Jeanes, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 461 (2007). — *C. sp. West MacDonnells* (B.G.Thompson 3568) NT Herbarium in Cowie & Albr. (eds), *Checklist N. Terr. Vasc. Pl. Sp.* 45 (2005). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. Australia* 2: 306 fig. 57B (2007).

Dioecious woody climber to 5 m high; leaves flammuliform, usually with 12–15 leaflets; leaflets narrow-ovate to lanceolate, entire or deeply 3-sect, terminal leaflet 12–45 × 1.5–5 (–11) mm, mucronate to emarginate, glabrescent. **Flowers** in axillary and terminal panicles, to c. 6 cm in diam.; perianth segments usually 4, linear-lanceolate, 2–3 cm long, pubescent below, white-tomentose at margin, glabrous above, pale green to creamy-white; stamens 1.5–5 mm long, filaments glabrous, white; anthers elliptic to ovate, 0.5–1 mm long, without an appendage; staminodes present. **Achenes** compressed-ovoid 4–5 × c. 2.5 mm, glabrous or with short, sparse hairs, light brown, margins corky; style plumose, 1.5–3.5 cm long.

S.A.: FR, EA, NL, MU, SL, KI, SE; NT; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Widespread in eastern Australia often in drier inland forests and woodlands, but also in wetter near-coastal forests. Flowers: Jul.–Oct.

3. \***Clematis flammula** L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 544 (1753) — **Illustr.:** B.Fretwell, *Clematis* 106 (1989).

Strong deciduous climber with a woody base, 3–5 m high; leaves biternate or flammuliform with 9–15 leaflets, rarely more; leaflets broadly ovate to narrowly oblong, 1.5–4 cm long, entire or sometimes 2- or 3-lobed, acute to obtuse, ± coriaceous, glabrescent. **Flowers** many in large axillary and terminal panicles, bisexual, to c. 3 cm in diam., fragrant; perianth segments usually 4, oblong, 8–14 mm long, glabrescent below, with narrow, white-tomentose margins, glabrous above, white; stamens 5–10 mm long, filaments glabrous; anthers linear, 3–4 mm long, obtuse, without an appendage; staminodes absent. **Achenes** strongly compressed, ovoid, 5–6 × 4–5 mm, appressed-pubescent to glabrous, dark brown with paler margins; style plumose, 2–5 mm long.

S.A.: \*SL; \*Vic. Eurasia, north Africa. Native of southern Europe, the Mediterranean region and south-western Asia. Grown as an ornamental and weakly naturalised in Australia.

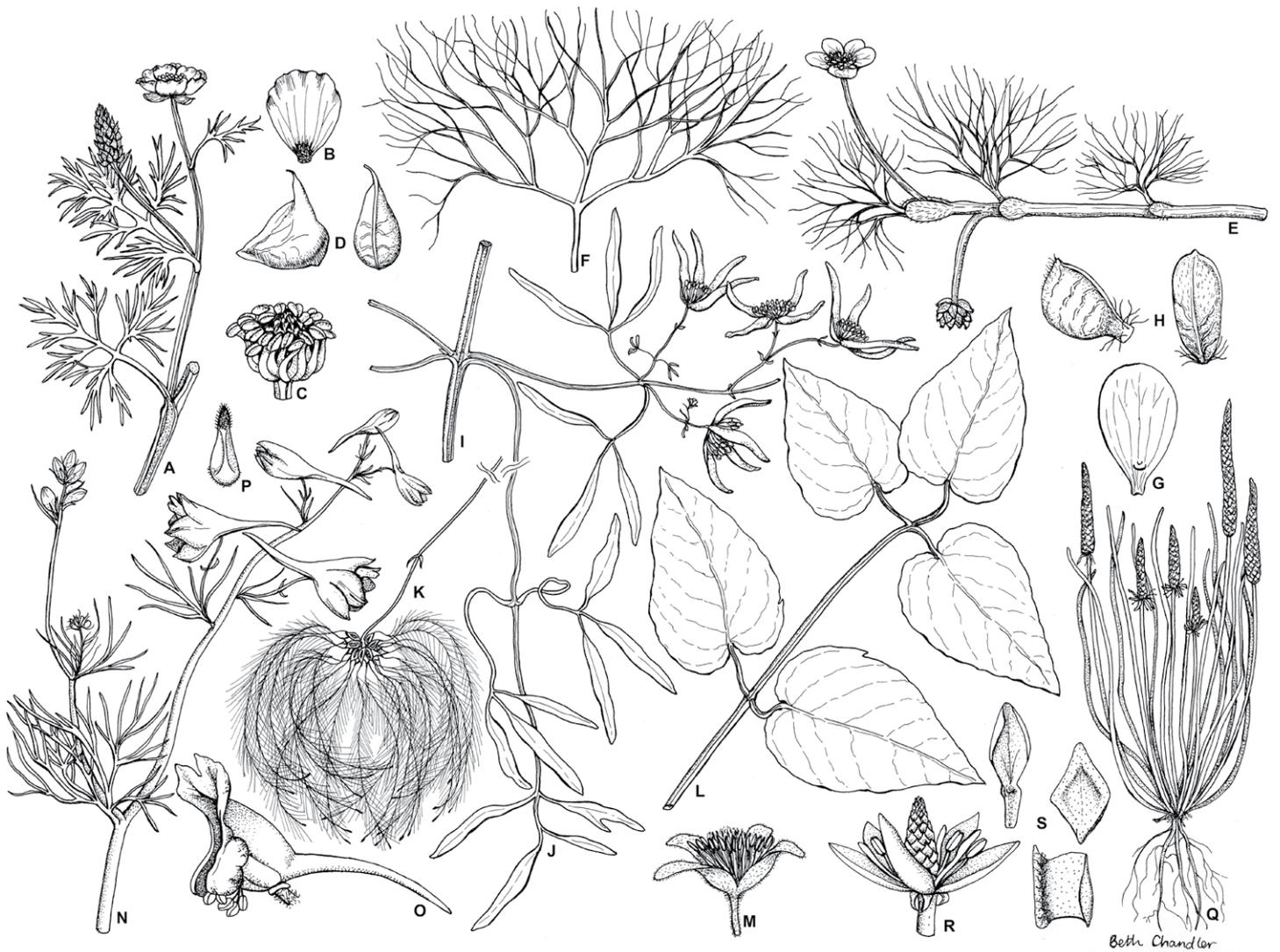


Fig. 1. A–D, *Adonis microcarpa*: A, twig; B, petal; C, stamens; D, fruits. E–H, *Bartrachium trichophyllum*: E, twig; F, leaf; G, petal; H, fruits. I–K, *Clematis microphylla*: I, twig; J, leaf; K, fruit. L–M, *Clematis vitalba*: L, leaf; M, flower. N–P, *Consolida ajacis*: N, twig; O, flower; P, fruit. Q–S, *Myosurus australis*: Q, plant; R, flower; S, 3 fruits. Illustration by B. Chandler, from *Flora of South Australia* 1: 343, 345, Fig. 195, 196 (1986).

4. ***Clematis leptophylla*** (F.Muell.) H.Eichler, *Fl. Austral.* 2: 460 (2007). — *C. microphylla* var. *leptophylla* F.Muell., *Pl. Victoria* 1: 4 (1862). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. Victoria* 3: 40 fig. 4O (1996) as *C. microphylla* var. *leptophylla*; *Fl. Austral.* 2: 309 fig. 58E, F (2007).

Dioecious woody climber to 5 m high; leaves flammuliform, triternate or incompletely quadraternate, with 18–36 or more leaflets or leaflet-segments; leaflets oblanceolate to obovate, entire or often deeply 3-lobed, often recurved at the margin, terminal leaflet 5–15 (–25) × 1–3 mm, acute to obtuse, mucronate to emarginate, glabrescent. **Flowers** in axillary and terminal panicles, to c. 4 cm in diam.; perianth segments usually 4, narrow-ovate to oblong, 1.2–2 cm long, short-pubescent below, glabrous above, creamy-white; stamens 2–6 mm long, filaments glabrous, white; anthers broadly elliptic, 0.4–1 mm long, without an appendage; staminodes present. **Achenes** compressed-ovoid 3.5–5 × 2–3 mm, glabrous, light brown, margins prominent, corky; style plumose, 1.8–3 cm long.

S.A.: FR, EP, NL, SL, KI, SE; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic. Widespread but sporadic in eastern Australia, often in dry open forests and woodlands of rainshadow areas. Flowers: Jul.–Oct.

5. ***Clematis microphylla*** DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 147 (1817). — **Illustr.:** G.R.Cochrane *et al.*, *Fl. & Pl. Victoria* 77, fig. 210 (1968); *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 308 (1982); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 306 fig. 57E–G (2007).

Dioecious woody climber to 5 m high; leaves mostly biternate with 9 (–12) leaflets; leaflets lanceolate-oblong, oblong or broad-ovate, 8–60 × 3–12 mm, entire or appearing toothed or lobed by incomplete division, usually obtuse, glabrous. **Flowers** in axillary and terminal panicles, to c. 5 cm in diam.; perianth segments usually 4, linear-lanceolate, 1.3–2.5 cm long, pubescent below, almost glabrous above, creamy-white; stamens 2–5.5 mm

long, filaments glabrous, white; anthers ellipsoidal-obloid, 0.4–1 mm long, without an appendage; staminodes present. **Achenes** compressed-ovoid to compressed broadly ellipsoid, 4–5 × 2–3 mm, glabrous or with short, sparse hairs, light-brown, margins corky; style plumose, 3–5 cm long. **Small-leaved clematis, old man's beard.** **Fig. 1I–K.**

S.A.: FR, EA, EP, NL, MU, YP, SL, KI, SE; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Widespread in eastern Australia in a wide variety of habitats including open forests, heathy woodlands and mallee scrublands. Flowers: Jul.–Oct.

6. \***Clematis vitalba** L. var. **vitalba**, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 544 (1753). — **Illustr.:** S.Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: t. 1. (1948); B.Fretwell, *Clematis* 145 (1989).

Strong deciduous woody climber to 10 m high; leaves imparipinnate with 5, or occasionally 7, leaflets; leaflets ovate, 3–10 cm long, entire, lobed or remotely serrate, acute or acuminate, glabrous or slightly pubescent, more densely so on the veins. **Flowers** in terminal and axillary panicles, bisexual, c. 2 cm in diam., fragrant; perianth segments oblong, c. 1 cm long, obtuse, with silky hairs above and below, tomentose at the margin, greenish-white; stamens 5–8 mm long, filaments linear, glabrous; anthers oblong, 1–2 mm long, obtuse, without an appendage, staminodes absent. **Achenes** strongly compressed, ovoid, 3–5 × 1.5–2.5 mm, pubescent, dark brown; style plumose 2–4 cm long. **Travellers joy.** **Fig. 1L–M.**

S.A.: \*SL; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native of S, W and central Europe. Grown as an ornamental in gardens; escaped and naturalised, e.g. at Crafers. Flowers: Jan., Feb.

#### 4. CONSOLIDIDA (DC.) Gray

*Nat. Arr. Brit. Pl.* 2: 709, 711 (1821).

(Name of an unknown plant in Roman literature (Apuleius, c. 150 A.D.) from the Latin *consolidare*, to make firm.)

Prepared by H. Eichler (updated by J.A. Jeanes)

*Delphinium* L. sect. *Consolida* DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 340, 341 (1817).

Annuals with slender taproots; leaves alternate, basal and cauline; lamina palmately lobed or divided. **Flowers** in racemes or panicles, zygomorphic, bisexual; sepals 5, petaloid, the upper one with a prolonged, conical, basal spur; petals 2, united into a single spurred nectary, its basal spur extending into the sepal spur; stamens numerous, in 5 spirally arranged series, filaments broadening towards base, anthers 2-celled, dehiscing longitudinally; carpel 1; ovules numerous. **Fruit** a many-seeded follicle.

About 60 species from central Asia to the Mediterranean area; in Australia, one species occasionally escaping cultivation and becoming weakly naturalised.

*Consolida* has been included by many in *Delphinium* L. as a section or subgenus.

References: Hilty (2003–2011); Warnock (1997).

1. \***Consolida ajacis** (L.) Schur, *Verb. Mitth. Siebenbürg. Vereins Naturwiss. Hermannstadt* 4(3): 47 (1853). — *Delphinium ajacis* L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 531 (1753). *C. ambigua* auct. non (L.) P.W.Ball & Heywood: J.H.Willis, *Handb. Pl. Victoria* 2: 156 (1973), H.Eichler in Jessop & Toelken, *Fl. S. Austral.* 1: 345 (1986). — **Illustr.:** J.Damboldt & W.Zimmermann in Hegi, *Ill. Fl. Mitt.-Eur.*, ed. 2, 3(3): 151, fig. 102 (1974), as *C. ambigua*; M.J.Warnock, *Fl. N. America*, 3: 243 (1997).

Stems to 1 m high, simple or branched, pubescent, becoming glabrous; leaves glabrous or pubescent; basal leaves petiolate, to 10 cm long, with oblong segments; cauline leaves sessile, 1–6 cm long, with linear segments. **Inflorescence** usually racemose, occasionally paniculate; lower bracts dissected; bracteoles small, remote, usually not reaching base of flower; lower pedicels mostly more than 12 mm long in fruit, but less than twice as long as ripe follicle; sepals 10–14 (–20) mm long, usually deep blue, rarely purple, pink or white, spur 12–20 mm long; petals 3-lobed, with a bifid upper lobe. **Follicle** 15–25 mm long, c. 5 mm thick, gradually narrowed at apex, becoming erect on ripening, pubescent; seeds black. **Eastern larkspur, rocket larkspur.** **Fig. 1N–P.**

S.A.: \*EP, \*SL. Native to the Mediterranean region and widely introduced in Asia and N America; introduced to Australia as an ornamental garden plant occasionally escaping from cultivation in W.A., S.A., N.S.W. and Vic. Flowers: Dec., Jan.

The name *C. ambigua* (syn. *Delphinium ambiguum* L.) has been misapplied widely in modern Australian State floras and check-lists to the material naturalised in Australia.

## 5. MYOSURUS L.

*Sp. Pl.* 1: 284 (1753).

(Greek *mys*, a mouse; *oura*, a tail; alluding to the long slender fruiting spike.)

Prepared by H. Eichler (updated by J.A. Jeanes)

Small, glabrous, tufted, annual herbs; leaves all in a basal rosette, linear-filiform or very narrowly spatulate, somewhat dilated towards the base, entire. **Flowers** bisexual, actinomorphic, solitary on bractless scapes, terminal; sepals 5, spurred, spurs descending and appressed to stem; petals 5–7 or fewer, sometimes absent, inconspicuous, usually smaller than sepals, filiform-tubular, broadest near the apex; nectary a narrow groove; stamens 5–20. **Achenes** 20–200 or more, spirally arranged in a slender subulate spike on a greatly elongated fruiting receptacle, each with a stylar beak.

About 15 not well defined species in the temperate regions of both Hemispheres. In Australia only one species recorded; though it has often been reported to be introduced, it may be native and specifically distinct from the European and N American *Myosurus minimus* L., under which name it has generally been treated.

1. **Myosurus australis** F.Muell., *Trans. Philos. Soc. Victoria* 1: 6 (1854). — *M. minimus* var. *australis* (F. Muell.) Huth, *Bot. Jahrb. Syst.* 16: 284 (1892). *M. minimus* auct. non L.: G.Bentham, *Fl. Austral.* 1: 8 (1863), J.H.Willis, *Handb. Pl. Victoria* 2: 156 (1973). — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 309 (1982); *Fl. S. Austral.* 1: 345 fig. 196D (1986), *Fl. Austral.* 2: 294 fig. 55A–E. (2007).

Plants 3–15 (–20) cm high; leaves narrow-linear, 1–8 (–12) cm × 0.5–1.5 (–2.5) mm, sometimes slightly expanded above, usually withered in fruit. **Scapes** usually 2–30, 1–3 cm long at anthesis, elongating to c. 10 cm or more in fruit; sepals 1.5–4.5 mm long, yellowish green, caducous; spur 0.5–2 mm long; petals usually 3–5, sometimes absent, 1.5–3.5 mm long, pale yellow, caducous; nectary minute; stamens 5–10. **Ripe** fruiting spikes cylindrical, 0.5–5 cm long, 1.5–2.5 mm thick, gradually narrowed to the apex; achenes typically 100–300 per spike, reddish brown, dorsally diamond-shaped to trullate, about 1–1.5 times as long as broad, 1–1.5 mm long, including the appressed, ascending, 0.2–0.6 mm long beak. **Mousetail. Fig. 1Q–S.**

S.A.: LE, FR, EP, MU; W.A.; N.T.; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Widespread, mostly in moist places near inland watercourses. Flowers: Jul.–Nov.

The European and N. American *M. minimus* differs in the shape of the back of the achenes which is elliptic or oblanceolate to oblong and twice or more as long as broad.

## 6. RANUNCULUS L.

*Sp. Pl.* 1: 548 (1753).

(Diminutive of Latin *rana*, a frog; name of a plant in the writings of Pliny.)

Prepared by N.G. Walsh

Annual or perennial herbs, sometimes aquatics; stems erect, creeping or stoloniferous; leaves spirally arranged, often with a basal rosette, exstipulate but petioles with a gradually tapering leaf sheath; blades often palmately lobed or divided, ternate or pinnately dissected, sometimes simple and entire. **Inflorescence** of solitary flowers, sometimes in cymose panicles, bisexual, actinomorphic, all parts arranged spirally; sepals (3–) 5; petals 5–15, rarely fewer, yellow, often glossy, each with a nectar-secreting pit on the upper surface usually in the lower half, often near the base, often covered by a lobe which may be adnate at its lateral margins forming a pocket; stamens usually numerous, rarely only 5 or fewer; carpels free, usually numerous, with 1 basal ovule. **Fruit** a globular or elongated head of smooth to irregularly rugose or tuberculate achenes; style usually persistent and forming a glabrous beak. **Buttercups, ranunculus.**

51 species (10 introduced) in Australia, more than 500 species worldwide, mostly in temperate parts of the Northern Hemisphere. Many species are poisonous to cattle when fresh. Hybrids between species of montane to alpine areas of the eastern states of Australia are common, but hybrids between S.A. species are relatively rare.

1. Leaves simple, narrowly elliptic to lanceolate, the lowermost sometimes nearly orbicular
  2. Achenes granular to tuberculate; petals 2.5–4.5 mm long; annual..... 10. **R. ophioglossifolius**
  - 2: Achenes smooth (minutely reticulate under magnification); petals 4–8 mm long; perennial..... 4. **R. flammula**
- 1: Leaves compound, or if simple then palmately or ternately lobed or dissected
  3. Achenes less than 1 mm long, very numerous, in elongated heads; beak minute; plants annual (rarely biennial), rather thick-stemmed, in wet areas ..... 19. **R. sceleratus** subsp. **sceleratus**
  - 3: Achenes longer than 1 mm long; fruiting heads not elongating; beak usually prominent
    4. Plants perennial; roots often fleshy, sometimes tuberous, and/or plants stoloniferous
      5. Plants with stolons; basal leaves ternate or palmately lobed or dissected
        6. Stolons robust, mostly above ground; petals 5–10 mm wide; leaves usually trifoliolate with petiolulate terminal leaflet ..... 16. **R. repens**
        - 6: Stolons slender, below ground (except sometimes if plants aquatic); petals mostly < 5 mm wide; terminal leaflet (if apparent) not or rarely petiolulate
        7. Leaves palmatisect, i.e. the incision of the lateral segments almost to the base and almost as deep as that between the lateral and terminal segments
          8. Nectary a swollen crescentic bracket without a petaloid lobe; leaf segments  $\pm$  linear in submerged leaves, often cuneate or obovate-cuneate in aerial leaves..... 1. **R. amphitrichus**
          - 8: Nectary with a distinct petaloid lobe, often  $\pm$  attached at the lateral margins and forming a pocket
            9. Ultimate segments of leaves wider than 2 mm; sepals usually hairy below; margin of achenes conspicuously thickened..... 22. **R. undosus**
            - 9: Ultimate segments of leaves narrowly linear, c. 1 (–2) mm wide; sepals glabrous; margin of achenes not conspicuously thickened ..... 7. **R. inundatus**
        - 7: Leaves trifoliolate or ternately divided, the incision of the lateral segments less deep than that between the terminal and lateral segments
          10. Nectary lacking a petaloid lobe; plants mostly aquatic or semi-aquatic, less often exposed on permanently wet soils ..... 1. **R. amphitrichus**
          - 10: Nectary with a petaloid lobe c. 0.5 mm long or more; plants mostly terrestrial in seasonally wet sites
            11. Achenes with 2–5 prominent, broad, oblique or nearly longitudinal ridges, or sometimes boldly reticulate on lateral faces ..... 5. **R. glabrifolius**
            - 11: Achenes irregularly wrinkled, or obscurely ridged, or pitted, or smooth
              12. Petals 7–12 mm long; achenes 1.7–3.6 mm long ..... 12. **R. papulentus**
              - 12: Petals 3.5–6.5 mm long; achenes 1–1.8 mm long ..... 3. **R. diminutus**
    - 5: Plants without stolons; basal leaves 3-lobed, 3-partite to more or less biternately cut or lobed
      13. Stem and petioles with short appressed hairs throughout; basal leaves few, dissected into narrow almost linear segments; roots fleshy, more or less tuberous 17. **R. robertsonii**
      - 13: Stem and petioles with long spreading hairs at least in their lower part; basal leaves several to many, with broad lanceolate to obovate segments
        14. Achenes more or less globular, with very thick pericarp; roots fleshy, more or less tuberous; basal leaves usually simple, 3-lobed to 3-partite, broad-ovate or as wide as long ..... 11. **R. pachycarpus**
        - 14: Achenes lenticular, with thin pericarp; roots fibrous (sometimes thick); basal leaves usually ternate (at least the later ones), to biternately lobed, ovate in outline, longer than wide, the central leaflet distinctly longer stalked than the lateral leaflets ..... 8. **R. lappaceus**

- 4: Plants annual; roots fibrous, stolons not produced
15. Achenes smooth and glabrous on lateral faces
16. Achenes more or less lenticular, thicker in the centre than at the margin, not twisted, 1.5–2 mm long; sepals 3 or 4; plants hairy ..... 15a. **R. pumilio** var. **politus**
- 16: Achenes strongly flattened, very thin, papery, with a thickened margin, often somewhat twisted when ripe, 2–4 mm long; sepals 3–5; plants almost glabrous..... 14a. **R. pentandrus** var. **pentandrus**
- 15: Achenes with spines, tubercles and/or hairs on lateral faces
17. Plants slender; flowers inconspicuous, 2–6 mm diam., often sessile or subsessile; receptacle glabrous; sepals usually spreading (reflexed in *R. parviflorus*); petals usually fewer than 5
18. Plants almost glabrous; achenes strongly flattened, very thin, papery, with a thickened margin, often somewhat twisted when ripe, 2–4 mm long, with small conical tubercles scattered over the central part of the faces, each terminated by a short recurved hair ..... 14b. **R. pentandrus** var. **platycarpus**
- 18: Plants hairy; achenes flattened but neither papery-thin nor twisted; ornamentation of achenes not confined to central parts of faces
19. Achenes 1.3–2 (–2.5) mm long; fruits often almost sessile
20. Basal leaves ternate, with linear to narrow-lanceolate leaflet-segments
21. Achenes more or less lenticular, their faces covered by hairs which sit on very short tubercles; sepals 5 ..... 15b. **R. pumilio** var. **pumilio**
- 21: Achenes flat, with prominent conical tubercles scattered over the faces; sepals 3 or 4..... 20a. **R. sessiliflorus** var. **pilulifer**
- 20: Basal leaves palmate to palmatifid, coarsely toothed or lobed....  
.....20b. **R. sessiliflorus** var. **sessiliflorus**
- 19: Achenes 2.5–5 mm long; fruits mostly pedicellate
22. Achenes on lateral faces with long thin subulate tubercles (bristles), each terminated by a short recurved hair, stipitate at the base; sepals 3, spreading; petals 1-nerved, nerve sometimes forked towards the apex ..... 6. **R. hamatosetosus**
- 22: Achenes on lateral faces with short conical tubercles, each terminated by a recurved bristle, not or only shortly stipitate; sepals 4 or 5, reflexed; petals with 3 principal nerves, all once or twice forked in the lower half..... 13. **R. parviflorus**
- 17: Plants robust, nearly glabrous; flowers conspicuous, 8–15 mm diam.; receptacle hairy; sepals usually reflexed (spreading or appressed to petals in *R. arvensis*); petals usually 5
23. Achenes 2–3.5 mm long, with short conical tubercles
24. Petals up to 1.5 times as long as sepals; achenes with numerous small tubercles, flat-ovate-orbicular; beak recurved; plants usually subglabrous..... 21. **R. trilobus**
- 24: Petals 2–3 times as long as sepals; achenes usually with few small tubercles mainly towards the margin (rarely faces evenly tuberculate), flat-orbicular; beak upcurved or straight; plants usually distinctly pilose..... 18. **R. sardous**
- 23: Achenes 5–8 mm long, with slender almost spiny tubercles
25. Sepals spreading; tubercles of achenes c. 3 mm long; leaves mostly deeply lobed or trifoliolate ..... 2. **R. arvensis**
- 25: Sepals reflexed; tubercles of achenes c. 1 mm long; leaves entire or shallowly 3-lobed..... 9. **R. muricatus**

1. **Ranunculus amphitrichus** Colenso, *Trans. & Proc. New Zealand Inst.* 17: 237 (1885), as *amphitricha*. — *R. rivularis* Banks & Sol. ex DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 270 (1817), *nom. illeg.* — **Illustr.:** Melville, *Kew Bull.* 10: 214, fig. 17 (1955), as *R. rivularis*; Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Austral.* figs 60a & g, 61d & f (1973), as *R. rivularis*; *Fl. Austral.* 2: 311, fig. 59D–G (2007).

Stoloniferous perennial, usually partially or entirely submerged; leaves with lamina trifoliolate to palmatisect, 1–5 (–7) cm diam., ± circular in outline, glabrous; segments linear-oblong when deeply submerged, cuneate to obovate when aerial, 3-toothed or 3–many-lobed; petioles 1–15 cm long. **Flowering** stems 1–10 cm long, erect to spreading, 1–4-flowered; sepals 4 or 5, spreading (sometimes ± reflexed), broadly ovate, 2–3 mm long, glabrous; petals 4–9, oblong to narrowly obovate, 2–4 mm long; nectary a swollen crescentic pocket or bracket at about one-third petal length from base; stamens c. 10–18; pistils c. 6–15; receptacle hispid in stamen-zone, glabrous or with few hairs in achene-zone. **Achenes** sublenticular, 1.5–2 mm long, somewhat swollen, smooth or slightly wrinkled or warted; beak slender, straight or slightly curved, almost as long as achene-body. **River buttercup, small river buttercup. Fig. 2W, X.**

S.A.: FR, NL, MU, SL, KI, SE; W.A.; Vic.; N.S.W.; Tas. N.Z. Moderately common in swamps, pools and slow-flowing streams, of the south-east; recorded at 8 m depth near the Vic. border. Flowers: all months, mostly Oct.–Mar.

2. \***Ranunculus arvensis** L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 555 (1753) — **Illustr.:** Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: t. 34 (1948).

Erect, sparsely pilose annual; lower leaves with lamina obovate or broadly spatulate, 2–4 cm long; petioles 1.5–7 cm long; stem-leaves trifoliolate with obovate or linear-elliptical segments, these sometimes further 3-toothed or shallowly lobed. **Flowering** stems 15–60 cm high, 3–7 (–15)-flowered, pedicels with sparse, recurved hairs; sepals 5, spreading, ovate, 5–7 mm long, pale yellowish green, pilose beneath; petals 5, obovate, 7–10 mm long, bright lemon-yellow, margins minutely ciliate; nectary near petal-base, lobe cuneate or obovate, wider than petal just above its attachment, 1–2 mm long, free for up to half this length; stamens 10–12; pistils 6–12; receptacle hirsute. **Achenes** broadly obovate, 6–8 mm long, strongly flattened, lateral faces with prominent, almost spiny tubercles to 3 mm long, longer near margins; beak 2–3 mm long, erect, straight to falcate. **Corn buttercup.**

S.A.: \*SE; \*N.S.W.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa, S Europe and SW Asia. Known in S.A. from a single record (1883) and probably not persisting. Flowers: Sep.–Oct. in other states.

3. **Ranunculus diminutus** B.G.Briggs, *Telopea* 5: 583–587 (1994). — *Ranunculus* sp. B *sensu* B.G.Briggs & Makinson in G.J.Harden, *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 165 (1990). — **Illustr.:** B.G.Briggs, *Telopea* 5: 584, fig. 1; *Fl. Victoria* 3: 59, fig. 11c (1996).

Stoloniferous perennial; leaves with lamina trifoliolate, 0.5–2 cm long and wide, the 3 segments oblong to narrowly elliptic, entire or with 2 or 3 lobes or teeth; petioles 2–10 (–12) cm long. **Flowering** stems 1–10 cm long, 1 (–3)-flowered; sepals 5–8, spreading, ovate to broadly elliptic, 3–5 mm long, glabrous or sparsely pilose; petals oblong to obovate, 3–6.5 mm long, bright yellow; nectary near petal base, pocket-like, lobe c. 0.5 mm long, apex shallowly emarginate, truncate, or shortly rounded; stamens 15–30; pistils 6–30; receptacle sparsely hispid. **Achenes** flattened-obovoid, 1–1.8 mm long, the lateral faces smooth or finely wrinkled or obscurely ridged; beak slender, erect, c. 1 mm long.

S.A.: SE; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. A species of seasonal swamps and lake margins. Known in S.A. only from the Penola region (1977). Flowers: Sep.–Feb.

4. \***Ranunculus flammula** L. subsp. **flammula**, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 548 (1753). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 167 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 49, fig. 7c (1996).

Erect or ascending perennial, to c. 80 cm high, glabrous or with scattered appressed hairs; mostly rooting at lower nodes; leaves mostly cauline, the lower with lamina narrow-elliptic to lanceolate, 1–6 (–12) cm × 2–15 (–30) mm, acute, entire or with a few small teeth; petioles to c. 10 cm long; upper leaves usually smaller, relatively narrower and (sub-) sessile. **Inflorescence** cymose, few–many-flowered; sepals 5, rarely 4, spreading, ovate to obovate, 2–4 mm long, appressed-hairy beneath; petals 5, obovate-cuneate, 4–8 mm long, pale yellow; nectary near petal base, lobe cuneate, truncate, c. 0.2 mm long, fused for entire length; stamens 25–40; pistils c. 10–50; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** obovate, 1–2 mm long, smooth, minutely reticulate (under magnification), obscurely bordered,

glabrous; beak minute, blunt. **Lesser spearwort.**

S.A.: \*SL; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to NW Africa, Europe, Asia. A weed of swamps and creeklines. Recorded from few sites near Mt Lofty and the Fleurieu Peninsula. Flowers: Nov.–Mar.

5. **Ranunculus glabrifolius** Hook., *J. Bot. (Hooker)* 1: 243 (1834). — **Illustr.:** Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Austral.* figs 60b & f (1973); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 59, fig. 11f (1996).

Stoloniferous perennial; leaves with lamina trifoliolate or deeply palmatisect, ± orbicular in outline, 1–7 cm diam.; leaflets narrowly elliptic (rarely linear) to obovate-cuneate, usually deeply lobed, ultimate segments mostly 1–3 mm wide, glabrous or with few scattered hairs; petioles 1.5–16 cm long. **Flowering** stems erect, to c. 30 cm long, 1–3-flowered, usually appressed-hirsute; sepals 5, spreading, ovate, 4–8 mm long, appressed-hairy below; petals 5–15, oblanceolate to obovate, 5–11 mm long, golden-yellow; nectary near petal-base, pocket like, ± 0.5–1 mm long, apex of lobe shallowly emarginate or sinuate, often asymmetric, margins excurrent; stamens 12–50; pistils 9–15; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** inflated, subglobose or broadly obovate, 2.7–4 mm long, the lateral faces with 3–4 broad, oblique ridges; beak erect or reflexed, c. 1.5 mm long. **Shining buttercup.**

S.A.: SE; Vic.; Tas. N.Z. Uncommon, known from a few sites in the far SE, and a 1907 record from Bridgewater. Flowers: Sep.–Jan.

(Vulnerable in S.A.)

6. **Ranunculus hamatosetosus** H.Eichler, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 81: 180 (1958). — **Illustr.:** H.Eichler, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 81: 182, figs 1, 2[1], t. 2 (1958).

Slender annual, 3–25 cm high; stems simple or branching from base; ± densely pilose at least near base: adult leaves with lamina reniform to ± semiorbicular in outline, 5–25 mm long, deeply trifid, median segment entire or coarsely 3-dentate, lateral segments 2-lobed, each up to 3-toothed; petioles 1–6 cm long; lower pedicels (when fruiting) 7–30 mm. **Flowers**, at least the upper ones, subsessile; pedicels (in fruit) to 30 mm; sepals 3, spreading 2–2.5 mm long, pilose below; petals 0–2, oblong, c. 2–2.25 mm long, 1-nerved, but this usually forked toward apex; nectary-scale above middle of petal, minute, semielliptic to semiorbicular; stamens 4 or 5; pistils 10–17; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** obliquely ovate, 3–5 mm long, virtually flat, ± stipitate, margin thickened, smooth, lateral faces with 15–20 long bristles each terminated by a short curved hair; beak triangular, slightly curved, up to half total achene length, terminating in a short hook. **Fig. 2A, B.**

S.A.: LE, FR, EA, EP, NL, MU, .SL. Occurs in shady humid places, often between rocks. Flowers: Jul.–Sep.

Endemic to S.A.

7. **Ranunculus inundatus** R.Br. ex DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 269 (1817). — *Ranunculus rivularis* var. *major* Benth, *Fl. Austral.* 1: 14 (1863), partly; *Ranunculus rivularis* var. *subfluitans* Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 1: 14 (1863), *nom. inval.* — **Illustr.:** Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Austral.* 159, fig. 60d, 161, fig. 61a–d (1973); *Pl. W. N.S.W.*, 309 (1982); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 59, fig. 11b, plate 3a–c (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 311, fig. 59A–C.

Stoloniferous perennial; basal leaves with lamina palmatisect, 1–5 cm diam., glabrous or with few hairs beneath; ultimate segments 0.5–2 mm wide; petioles 1–15 cm long, ± glabrous. **Flowering** stems 5–30 cm high, 1–3-flowered, glabrous, ± pilose at base; sepals 5, spreading to reflexed, 2–3.5 mm long, glabrous; petals 5–12, narrowly obovate to oblanceolate, 4–10 mm long, yellow, obtuse; nectary near petal base, c. 1 mm long, lobe obtuse, often oblique, free for half to two-thirds of its length; stamens 20–30; pistils 20–45; receptacle shortly hirsute in stamen-zone, subglabrous between achenes. **Achenes** ± lenticular, 1.5–1.8 mm long, lateral faces almost smooth or irregularly warty; beak reflexed, about half to two-thirds as long as achene-body. **River buttercup. Fig. 2C, D.**

S.A.: MU, SL, KI, SE; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic. Usually in shallow water and with leaves either floating or submerged, rarely on wet ground. Flowers: Sep.–Jan.

Rare in S.A. known from a few sites on the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island and near the Victorian border.

8. **Ranunculus lappaceus** Sm. in A. Rees, *Cycl.* 29(2): Ranunculus no. 61 (1815) — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 309 (1982); Corrick & Fuhrer, *Wildfl. Victoria*, 194, fig. 681 (2000).

Tufted perennial; roots fibrous to, rarely, fleshy-subtuberous; leaves mostly basal, lamina ovate to deltoid in outline, 1.5–8 (–11) cm long and wide, ternate (at least the later ones), to biternately lobed, leaflets usually deeply dissected or lobed, longer than wide, the central leaflet distinctly longer stalked than the lateral leaflets, appressed-hirsute, sometimes with well developed petiolules; petioles 2–30 cm long with spreading and/or appressed hairs. **Flowering** stems 4–70 (–170) cm high, (1–) 2–10-flowered, with spreading and/or appressed hairs; sepals 5, spreading, elliptic, 4–7 (–10) mm long, hairy below; petals 5, obovate-cuneate, 7–17 (–22) mm long, obtuse, bright yellow; nectary near petal base, lobe cuneate, c. 1–2.8 mm long, free for most its length; stamens 40–110; pistils 20–50; receptacle glabrous in stamen-zone, hirsute above. **Achenes** lenticular, obovate-cuneate, 1.7–3.5 mm long, margin narrowly ridged, lateral faces smooth or dimpled; beak slender, 0.8–1.8 mm long, arched, tip recoiled. **Common buttercup, Australian buttercup. Fig. 2E, F.**

S.A.: LE, FR, EP, NL, MU, SL, SE; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Occurs in southern Eyre Peninsula, southern Flinders Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula and the far south-east, mainly in moist sites, e.g. swamp margins, shaded forest and woodlands. Flowers: Jul.–Dec.

9. \***Ranunculus muricatus** L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 555 (1753). — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. N.S.W.*, 310 (1982); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 165 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3:45, fig. 5d (1996).

Suberect or spreading annual, glabrous to pilose; basal leaves with lamina ± orbicular, ± cordate, 1.5–5 cm long, with 3–5 shallow rounded coarsely crenate-dentate lobes; petioles 5–15 cm long; upper cauline leaves ± cuneate, with 3 narrow, entire or toothed segments. **Flowering** stems 10–50 cm high, 1–10-flowered; sepals 5, strongly reflexed, ovate, c. 5 mm long, sparsely pilose below; petals 5, obovate, 7–9 mm long, slightly longer than sepals, yellow; nectary near petal base, lobe obovate to cuneate, 1–2 mm long, free for up to half this length; stamens 15–20; pistils 8–20; receptacle pubescent. **Achenes** broadly obovate, 5–8 mm long, flattened, brown with a green, strongly keeled and grooved, smooth margin, faces with numerous, acute tubercles c. 1 mm long (rarely the faces almost smooth); beak stout, 2–3 mm long, nearly straight. **Sharp buttercup, burr (or prickle-fruit) buttercup. Fig. 2G, H.**

S.A.: \*FR, \*EP, \*NL, \*MU, \*SL, \*SE; \*W.A.; \*Qld; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa, Europe and W Asia, widely naturalized. A weed of damp sites, e.g. agricultural areas, ditches, parks and lawns. Fairly common in Adelaide area, otherwise scattered from southern Flinders Range south-east to the Victorian border. Flowers: Aug.–Dec.

10. \***Ranunculus ophioglossifolius** Vill., *Hist. Pl. Dauphiné* 3(2): 731, t. 49 (1789). — **Illustr.:** Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: t. 24 (1948); *Fl. Victoria* 3:49, fig. 7b (1996).

Erect or ascending annual to c. 50 cm high, often rooting from lower nodes, glabrous or with few appressed hairs; leaves mostly cauline, the lower ones with lamina ovate or suborbicular, to c. 40 × 20 mm, sometimes cordate at base; petioles to c. 12 cm long; upper leaves narrow-elliptic, to 65 × 10 mm, shortly petiolate, becoming smaller and ± sessile above; all entire or obscurely callous-toothed. **Inflorescence** cymose, of few to many flowers; sepals 4 or 5, spreading or slightly recurved, ovate to obovate, 2–4 mm long, with appressed hairs beneath; petals obovate-cuneate, 2.5–4.5 mm long, pale yellow; nectary near petal-base, lobe broad, triangular or retuse, c. 0.2 mm long, free; stamens c. 6–10; pistils 20–50; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** flattened-ovoid, 1.5–2 mm long, obscurely bordered, faces granular to tuberculate; beak ± triangular, 0.5–1 mm long. **Snake-tongue buttercup.**

S.A.: \*SE; \*Vic. Native to N Africa, Europe and W Asia. Currently known only from the Penola-Millicent area. Aquatic or semi-aquatic weed of swamps, lagoons etc.

11. **Ranunculus pachycarpus** B.G. Briggs, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 84:301, fig. 2:11–16 (1960). — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. New South Wales* 310 (1982); *Fl. Victoria* 3:55, fig. 10a (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2:336, fig. 63 f, g (2007).

Tufted perennial; roots often subtuberous, tapering distally; leaves mostly basal, lamina ovate to elliptic in outline, 0.8–4.5 cm long and wide, 3-lobed to deeply ternately dissected, the segments acutely toothed or further lobed, with soft subappressed hairs; petioles 1–12 cm long, with spreading or subappressed hairs. **Flowering** stems 5–20 (–40) cm high, 1–5-flowered, hairs spreading near base, usually appressed above; sepals 5, spreading, ovate



**Fig. 2.** A–B, *Ranunculus hamatosestosus*: A, plant and leaf; B, fruit. C–D, *R. inundatus*: C, leaf; D, fruit. E–F, *R. lappaceus*: E, leaf and flower; F, fruit. G–H, *R. muricatus*: G, leaf; H, fruit. I–J, *R. pachycarpus*: I, plants and leaf; J, fruit. K–L, *R. papulentus*: K, plant, leaf and infructescence; L, fruit. M–N, *R. parviflorus*: M, leaf and infructescence; N, fruit. O–P, *R. pentandrus* var. *pentandrus*: O, plant, leaf and infructescence; P, fruit. Q–R, *R. pumilio* var. *pumilio*: Q, plant, leaf and infructescence; R, fruit. S, *R. pumilio* var. *politus*, fruit. T–V, *R. repens*: T, leaf; U, flower and infructescence; V, fruit. W–X, *R. amphitrichus*: W, flower; X, fruit. Y–Z, *R. robertsonii*: Y, plant and infructescence; Z, fruit. AA–CC, *R. sessiliflorus* var. *sessiliflorus*: AA, plant; BB, infructescence; CC, fruit. DD–FF, *R. sessiliflorus* var. *pilulifer*: DD, leaf; EE, infructescence; FF, fruit. GG–HH, *R. trilobus*: GG, plant and infructescence; HH, fruit. Illustrations by B. Chandler, from *Flora of South Australia* 1: 349, 351, Fig. 197, 198 (1986).

to obovate, 3–7 mm long, with spreading hairs below; petals 5, obovate-cuneate, 6–15 mm long, golden-yellow; nectary near petal-base, lobe oblong to cuneate, 1–2 mm long, free for c. half its length; stamens 25–45; pistils 15–30; receptacle glabrous in stamen-zone, pubescent above. **Achenes** globular or plumply obovoid-cuneate, 2.5–5 mm long, lateral faces smooth, often with shallow dorsal groove; beak 1.5–2 mm long, recurved or straight with recurved tip. **Thick-fruited buttercup.** Fig. 2I, J.

S.A.: FR, NL, MU, YP, SL, KI, SE; N.S.W.; Vic. Locally common in woodlands of rocky sites in river valleys and in seasonally wet sites on sandy or clay substrates. Flowers: Jul.–Nov.

Sometimes growing with the similar *R. robertsonii* and plants of apparently hybrid origin may occur in these areas.

12. **Ranunculus papulentus** Melville, *Kew Bull.* 10: 210, figs 14: 1–13 & 16: 2 (1955). — **Illustr.:** Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Austral.* 159, figs. 60c & h, 61h–i (1973); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 165 (1990); *Fl. Austral.* 3: 323, fig. 60h–j (2007).

Stoloniferous perennial; leaves with lamina trifoliolate, sometimes appearing digitate due to deep division of lateral segments, 1.5–5 cm long and wide; segments cuneate to narrow elliptic, 2–6 (–12) mm wide, each with 3–5 lobes or teeth, rarely entire, glabrous or with a few scattered hairs above, sparingly pilose below; petioles 4–25 cm long. **Flowering** stems 10–30 cm long, erect, 2–4-flowered, ± pilose under the flowers and glabrescent below; sepals 5 (6), spreading, ovate to oblong, ± 5 mm long, ± shortly hispid below, rarely glabrous; petals 5–15, elliptic to oblanceolate, 7–12 mm long, yellow; nectary near petal-base, ± 0.5 mm long, pocket-like, apex emarginate or truncate, or a short rounded lobe developed; stamens 15–40; pistils 20–50; receptacle sparsely hispid in achene zone. **Achenes** obliquely obovoid to broadly cuneoid, 1.7–3.6 mm long, lateral faces smooth, irregularly warty or undulate; beak slender, erect to reflexed, 0.8–2.4 mm long. **Large river-buttercup. Fig. 2K, L.**

S.A.: MU, SL, SE; N.S.W.; Vic. At swamp and river margins, scattered from the southern Fleurieu Peninsula to the Vic. border near Penola. Flowers: Dec.–Jan.

(Vulnerable in S.A.)

13. **\*Ranunculus parviflorus** L., *Syst. Nat.*, ed. 10, 1087 (1759). — **Illustr.:** Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: pl. 33 (1948); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 49, fig. 7b (1996).

Decumbent to ascending annual, sparsely to densely pilose; basal leaves with lamina orbicular-reniform, 1.5–4 cm diam., palmately 3–5-lobed, lobes coarsely toothed, hairy on both surfaces; petioles 3–10 cm long; cauline leaves similar, but lobes often narrower; uppermost leaves often entire, ± sessile. **Flowering** stems 10–40 cm high, 2–10-flowered; sepals 4 or 5, reflexed, ovate, c. 2 mm long, densely pilose below; petals 2–5, obovate, 2–3 mm long, pale yellow; nectary near petal-base, lobe ± ovate, c. 0.4 mm long, free above midway; stamens 5–8; pistils 6–24; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** orbicular-ovate, 2.5–3 mm long, brown with paler, keeled narrow margin, faces ± evenly covered with short tubercles, each terminated by a short hooked bristle; beak triangular or hooked at apex, c. 0.5 mm long. **Small-flowered buttercup. Fig. 2M, N.**

S.A.: \*NL, \*SL, \*SE; \*N.S.W. (also Lord Howe Is., Norfolk Is); \*Vic; \*Tas. N.Z. Native to N Africa, S Europe and W Asia. Typically a weed of ditches, depressions, wet pasture, etc., but in S.A. currently known only from Mt Lofty Ranges and the far south-east near Mt Gambier. Flowers: Nov. (1 record).

14. **Ranunculus pentandrus** J.M. Black, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 49: 272 (1925).

Slender ± erect annual, 2–40 cm high, glabrous or sparingly pilose; stems usually branched from base; adult lower leaves with lamina trifoliolate, 0.7–2.5 cm long, leaflets ternately dissected into narrow-lanceolate to nearly linear lobes; petioles 1.5–5 cm long. **Lower** flowers usually pedicellate with fruiting pedicels to 3 cm long, upper flowers subsessile; sepals 3–5, elliptic to obovate-oblong, 1.7–2 mm long; petals 1 or 2, elliptic to obovate-spathulate, 1.5–2 mm long, whitish; nectary near middle of petal, lobe ± semicircular, c. 0.2 mm long; stamens 3–5; pistils 6–20; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** suborbicular to broadly ovate, 2–4 mm long, strongly flattened, often twisted, margins smooth, slightly thickened, pale reddish brown; beak triangular, 0.3–1 mm long. **Smooth buttercup.**

1. Lateral faces of achenes smooth, glabrous, without or with very few tubercles..... 14a. **R. pentandrus** var. **pentandrus**  
.....  
1. Centre part of lateral faces of achenes with scattered short conical tubercles, each terminated by a short, recurved bristle or hair..... 14b. **R. pentandrus** var. **platycarpus**

- 14a. **Ranunculus pentandrus** var. **pentandrus** — **Illustr.:** H.Eichler, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 81, t. 1, fig. 1 (1958); *Fl. S.E. Qld* 1: 173, fig. 23 F; *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 166 (1990).

**Achenes** with lateral faces mostly smooth and glabrous, rarely with up to 10 small tubercles and these with or without a microscopic hooked bristle. **Fig. 2O, R.**

S.A.: LE; Qld; N.S.W. Confined to NW S.A. and rather rare (Pandie Pandie area). Generally a species of floodplains or watercourses and their immediate environs. Flowers: Aug.

- 14b. **Ranunculus pentandrus** var. **platycarpus** (F.Muell.) H.Eichler, *Suppl. J.M. Black's Fl. S. Austral.* 149 (1965). — *R. sessiliflorus* var. *platycarpus* F.Muell., *Rep. Babbage Exped.* 7 (1859); *R. parviflorus* var. *glabrescens* J.M.Black, *Fl. S. Austral.* 237 (1924); *R. pentandrus* var. *glabrescens* (J.M.Black) Melville, *Kew Bull.* 11: 282 (1956). — **Illustr.:** J.H.Leigh & W.E.Mulham, *Past. Pl. Riverine Plain* 79 (1965); *Fl. Central Austral.* 87, fig. 108 (1981); *Fl. Austral.* 2:350, fig. 66, j–l (2007).

**Achenes** with c. 20 or more short conical tubercles over the central part of each face, each tubercle terminated by a recurved hair or bristle.

S.A.: NW, LE, GT, FR, EA, EP, MU, SL; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic. Mainly in the vicinity of inland watercourses and other areas prone to inundation. Flowers: June–Sep.

15. **Ranunculus pumilio** R.Br. ex DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 271 (1817).

Slender annual, 1–40 cm high, ± densely pilose, at least in lower part; stems branched from base; adult leaves with lamina trifoliolate or palmatisect, 0.5–2.5 cm long, the ultimate lobes lanceolate to linear acute, mostly 0.5–1.5 mm wide; petioles 1–7.5 cm long. **Flowers** generally pedicellate (upper flowers sometimes sessile); pedicels 3–15 mm long (to 5 cm in fruit); sepals 3–5, elliptic to obovate, c. 2 mm long; petals 2–4, ovate-spathulate, 1.5–2 mm long, yellow; nectary lobe above middle, minute, semi elliptic or triangular; stamens 4–6; pistils 10–25; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** suborbicular, biconvex, 1.5–2 mm long; beak ± triangular, obtuse or minutely hooked, c. 0.2 mm long. **Smallflower buttercup, ferny buttercup.**

1. Achenes ± densely covered with c. 50 minute tubercles each bearing a short stiff curved or appressed hair; sepals 5..... 15b. **R. pumilio** var. **pumilio**  
1: Achenes smooth, glabrous; sepals 3 (rarely 4)..... 15a. **R. pumilio** var. **politus**

- 15a. **Ranunculus pumilio** R.Br. ex DC. var. **politus** Melville, *Kew Bull.* 11: 285 (1956). — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 310 (1982); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 166 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 47, fig. 6c (1996).

**Sepals** 3, or very rarely, 4. **Achenes** with lateral faces smooth and glabrous. **Fig. 2S.**

S.A.: FR, EA, MU, SE; N.S.W.; Vic. Scattered from the northern Flinders Range to the Vic. border near Bordertown. Flowers: Jul.–Oct.

Largely co-extensive with var. *pumilio* but much rarer. Although vegetatively indistinguishable from var. *pumilio*, the consistent differences in fruit and sepal number suggest it could warrant recognition as a distinct species.

(Vulnerable in S.A., presumed extinct in MU)

- 15b. **Ranunculus pumilio** var **pumilio** — **Illustr.:** *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 310 (1982); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 166 (1990); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 350, fig. 66 a–c.

**Sepals** 5. **Achenes** with lateral faces ± densely covered with 20 or more (usually c. 50) minute tubercles, each terminated by a short, stiff, curved or appressed hair; hairs distinctly longer than subtending tubercles. **Fig. 2Q, R.**

S.A.: NW, LE, GT, EA, EP, MU, YP, SL, KI, SE; W.A.; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic. Reasonably common on fringes of swamps, lakes, watercourses and areas prone to inundation. Flowers: Aug.–Nov.

16. \***Ranunculus repens** L., *Sp. Pl.* 1: 554 (1753). — **Illustr.:** Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: pl. 30 (1948); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 164 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 45, fig. 5a (1996).

Stoloniferous perennial; stolons rooting at nodes; basal leaves very variable, lamina triangular-ovate, 2–15 cm long, trifoliolate, sometimes ± variegated; leaflets petiolulate, broadly ovate, entire and irregularly toothed, or further ± ternately (sometimes ± biternately) dissected, subsericeous (rarely), pilose or ± glabrous; petioles 2–35 cm long; uppermost stem-leaves sessile, linear-lanceolate, entire. **Flowering** stems 15–75 cm high, 1–3 (–5)-flowered, pilose to subsericeous; sepals 5, appressed or spreading, ovate to broad-elliptic, 5–8 mm long, pubescent below;

petals usually 5, broadly obovate, 6–15 mm long, yellow, glossy; nectary near petal-base, lobe obovate to cuneate, 1–2 mm long, free for most of this length; stamens 35–75; pistils c. 20–50; receptacle hispid. **Achenes** ± orbicular, 2.5–3.5 mm long, strongly laterally compressed, glabrous, finely punctulate, distinctly margined; beak c. 1 mm long, straight or curved. **Creeping buttercup. Fig. 2T, V.**

S.A.: \*NL, \*SL, \*SE; \*Qld; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa, Europe and Asia. Localised, but locally well established (Pt Pirie, Adelaide and Millicent areas), mostly damp roadsides, paddocks, margins of ponds, etc. Flowers: Oct.–Dec.

17. **Ranunculus robertsonii** Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 1: 10 (1863). — **Illustr.:** B.G. Briggs, *Proc. Linn. Soc. New South Wales* 84: 305, figs 17–21 (1960); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 53, fig. 9d (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 336, fig 63 h, i (2007).

Tufted perennial; roots tuberous, abruptly tapered; leaves mostly basal, lamina ovate to deltoid in outline, 12–25 mm long, deeply trifid to ternately or biternately dissected, or commonly trifoliolate with narrowly trifid or further divided leaflets, ultimate lobes lanceolate to narrowly linear, acute; petioles 1–9 cm long with short appressed hairs. **Flowering** stem 5–25 cm high, 1–3-flowered, hairs appressed; sepals 5, spreading, ± ovate, 3–5.5 mm long, hirsute below, rarely glabrous; petals 5, obovate-cuneate, 8–14 mm long, bright yellow; nectary near petal-base, lobe cuneate, 1.5–2 mm long, truncate or emarginate, free for c. half its length; stamens 30–35; pistils 15–35; receptacle glabrous in stamen-zone, hirsute above. **Achenes** lenticular to obcuneate, 1.1–1.5 mm long, margins usually thickened, often with short irregular intersecting ribs; lateral faces irregularly dimpled, beak slender, 0.9–1.2 mm long, straight, tip recurved. **Slender buttercup. Fig. 2Y, Z.**

S.A.: SE; Vic. Mostly in low-lying sites, sometimes slightly saline, on sandy soils. Flowers: Aug.–Oct.

See note under *R. pachycarpus*.

(Rare in S.A., between c. Padthaway, Mt Gambier and the Vic. border.)

18. **\*Ranunculus sardous** Crantz, *Stirp. Austr. Fasc.* 2: 84 (1763). — **Illustr.:** Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: t. 32 (1948); *Fl. Victoria* 3:45, fig. 5b (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2:346, fig. 65 g–j (2007).

Erect, pilose to subglabrous annual, tufted or rarely developing short stolons in very wet sites; basal leaves with lamina triangular-ovate in outline, 2–8 cm long, deeply 3-lobed or trifoliolate, sometimes distinctly petiolulate; leaflets irregularly cut or toothed or crenate; petioles 6–32 cm long; cauline leaves shortly stalked or sessile and less divided. **Flowering** stem 5–18-flowered, hollow, 10–50 cm high; sepals 5, reflexed, ovate, 4–7 mm long; petals 5, obovate, 8–14 mm long, pale yellow; nectary near petal-base, lobe obovate to cuneate, c. 1 mm long, attached only at base; stamens c. 40–60; pistils 30–40; receptacle hairy. **Achenes** in slightly elongated head, flattened, suborbicular, 2–2.5 mm long, greenish brown, faces with small obtuse tubercles near green margin, rarely smooth or evenly tuberculate; beak c. 0.5 mm long, curved upwards.

S.A.: \*SL; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa, Europe and W Asia. Collected from wet pasture and swamps near Adelaide (1968), Mt Compass (1986) and Nangkita (1991), and locally abundant in suitable seasons. Flowers: Oct.–Dec. (3 records).

19. **\*Ranunculus scleratus** L. subsp. **scleratus**, *Sp. Pl.* 1: 551 (1753). — **Illustr.:** S. Ross-Craig, *Drawings Brit. Pl.* 1: t. 23 (1948); *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 310 (1982); *Fl. S.E. Qld* 1: 173, fig. 23 I, as *R. scleratus*; *Fl. New South Wales* 1: 167 (1990).

Erect semi-aquatic annual 20–80 cm high, glabrous or with scattered soft hairs; stem stout, hollow, ridged, branched above; lower leaves with lamina broadly ovate to reniform, cordate, 2–8 cm long, palmately 3–5-lobed, lobes obovate-cuneate, shallowly 3-lobed and crenate; petioles 2–30 cm long; upper leaves sessile, deeply trifid with ± oblong segments, or simple. **Inflorescence** cymose, usually many-flowered; sepals 5, reflexed, obovate, 2–4 mm long, pilose beneath; petals 5, narrowly ovate to broadly obovate, 3–4 mm long, pale yellow; nectary near petal-base, a ± circular pit c. 0.5 mm diam., lacking a covering lobe or flap; stamens usually c. 20; pistils very numerous (up to c. 700); receptacle hairy. **Achenes** in an elongated head, glabrous, flattened-obovoid, c. 1 mm long; beak minute. **Celery buttercup.**

S.A.: \*MU, \*SE; \*W.A.; \*Qld; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa, Europe and W to C Asia. Locally common in wetlands associated with the Murray River (Chowilla, Murray Bridge areas), with an isolated record from Comaam Forest against the Vic. border in the south-east. Flowers: Nov.–Apr.

Poisonous to stock. The elongated fruiting head and abundant small achenes are distinctive. The common name reflects its superficial vegetative appearance to Celery.

(Proclaimed weed in S.A.)

20. **Ranunculus sessiliflorus**, R.Br. ex DC., *Syst. Nat.* 1: 301 (1817). — *Ranunculus parviflorus* var. *australis* Benth., *Fl. Austral.* 1: 14 (1863), partly.

Slender annual, 2–35 cm high, sparingly to ±densely pilose on lower part; stems usually branched near base; adult leaves with lamina palmatisect or trifoliolate, 4–15 mm long, the median segment 3-dentate, the lateral ± 2-fid with 3 or 4 teeth to each lobe; petioles 2–5 cm long. **Flowers** leaf-opposed, sessile or nearly so, the lower ones occasionally shortly pedicellate with fruiting pedicels to 1.5 cm long; sepals 3 or 4, oblong to elliptic, c. 2 mm long, pilose below; petals 0–2, elliptic- to linear-spathulate, 1–2 mm long; nectary lobe above the middle, minute, ±triangular, obtuse; stamens 3–6; pistils 6–20; receptacle glabrous. **Achenes** suborbicular to obovate, 1.3–2.5 mm long, virtually flat, the lateral faces each bearing 7–25 conical tubercles terminated by a recurved bristle; beak short-triangular, 0.3–0.5 (–1) mm long, ±acute. **(Australian) smallflower buttercup.**

1. Leaves palmatilobed or palmatisect or 3- or 5-fid, but not distinctly compound; segments cuneate to flabelliform..... 20b. **R. sessiliflorus** var. **sessiliflorus**  
1. Leaves trifoliolate; each leaflet further divided into linear to narrowly lanceolate segments..... 20a. **R. sessiliflorus** var. **pilulifer**

- 20a. **Ranunculus sessiliflorus** var. **pilulifer** (Hook.) Melville, *Kew Bull.* 11: 284 (1957). — *R. pilulifer* Hook., *Icon. Pl.* 6(12): t. 600 (1843); *R. pumilio* var. *pilulifer* (Hook.) Hook.f., *Fl. Tasman.* 1: 10 (1855). — **Illustr.:** R.Melville, *Kew Bull.* 278, fig. 1G, 283, fig. 5.16–23 (1957); H.Eichler, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 81, t. 1, fig. 2 (1958); *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 166 (1990).

Leaves deeply ternately, biternately or triternately divided with ultimate segments linear to narrow-lanceolate. **Fig. 2DD–FF.**

S.A.: FR, EP, NL (apparently now extinct), MU, YP, KI, SE; W.A.; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic. Largely co-extensive with, but absent from the drier part of the range of the typical variety, much less common generally. Flowers: June–Sep.

(Vulnerable in S.A.)

- 20b. **Ranunculus sessiliflorus** R.Br. ex DC. var. **sessiliflorus** — **Illustr.:** Melville, *Kew Bull.* 1956: 278, fig. 1A–C, 283, fig. 5.1–15 (1957); H.Eichler, *Trans. Roy. Soc. South Australia* 81, t. 1, fig. 2 (1958); *Pl. W. N.S.W.* 310 (1982); *Fl. Austral.* 2:350, fig. 66 d–f (2007).

Leaves palmate or palmatifid with ultimate segments cuneate (but apically toothed) to flabelliform. **Fig. 2AA–CC.**

S.A.: NW, LE, FR, EA, EP, NL, MU, YP, SL, KI, SE; W.A.; Qld; N.S.W.; Vic.; Tas. Widespread and reasonably common from the Gawler Range eastwards, with isolated outliers near Mt Lindsay in the far NW and Innamincka near the Qld border. In drier parts of the range largely confined to depressions, gullies etc., but in wetter eastern sites, frequent in a range of sites following rains. Flowers: Mainly Sep.–Oct.

21. \***Ranunculus trilobus** Desf., *Fl. Atlant.* 1: 437, t. 113 (1798). — *R. trachycarpus* auct. non Fisch. & C.A.Mey. (1837); J.M.Black, *Fl. S. Austral.* ed. 2, 2: 363 (1948). — **Illustr.:** *Fl. N.S.W.* 1: 165 (1990); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 45, fig. 5c (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2:346, fig. 65a–c (2007).

Erect, tufted or slightly spreading annual, glabrous or sparsely pilose; first basal leaves with lamina suborbicular, 1–4 cm long, entire or shallowly ternately divided, later leaves deeply ternately dissected to trifoliolate, segments cuneate-obovate, dentate or more deeply lobed; petioles 2–10 cm long, sparsely hairy; upper cauline leaves and bracts usually with linear-oblong segments. **Flowering** stems 20–80 cm high, several-many-flowered; sepals 5, ovate, 3–5 mm long, reflexed, glabrous or sparsely pilose beneath; petals (3–) 4–5, elliptic to obovate, 4–8 mm long, golden-yellow; nectary virtually at petal-base, lobe cuneate to obovate, 0.5–1 mm long, free for more than

half this length; stamens 10–20; pistils 18–50; receptacle hispid. **Achenes** in a slightly elongated head, ovate-orbicular, 2.5–3.5 mm long, compressed, faces brown, with many small conical-hemispherical tubercles, margins narrowly keeled, green; beak narrowly triangular, scarcely c. 0.5 mm long, recurved. **Large annual buttercup.** **Fig. 2GG–HH.**

S.A.: \*EP, \*MU, \*SL, \*KI, \*SE; \*W.A.; \*N.S.W.; \*Vic.; \*Tas. Native to N Africa and SW Europe. Occurs in swamps, backwaters, dams and other sites prone to inundation in the greater Adelaide region, lower Murray R., eastern Kangaroo Island (Dudley), Bordertown and Naracoorte areas. Flowers: Sep., Oct.

22. **Ranunculus undosus** Melville, *Kew Bull.* 10: 211, fig. 15 (1955) — **Illustr.:** Aston, *Aquat. Pl. Austral.* fig. 63 (1973); *Fl. Victoria* 3: 59, fig.11a (1996); *Fl. Austral.* 2: 329, fig. 61d, e. (2007).

Rhizomatous or stoloniferous perennial, glabrous or sparsely pilose; leaves with lamina deeply palmatisect, 3–7 cm wide; ultimate segments 2–9 mm wide, with broad ± tridentate blunt apex; petioles 8–42 cm long. **Flowering stems** 12–45 cm high, 2–5-flowered; sepals 5, spreading, obovate, 5–8 mm long, ± pilose below; petals 5–14, oblong to obovate-cuneate, 8–18 mm long, golden-yellow; nectary near petal base, pocket-like, lobe 0.5–1 mm long, slightly rounded to shallowly emarginate; stamens c. 30–40; pistils c. 40–100; receptacle moderately hispid throughout. **Achenes** ± semiorbicular, 1.8–3.0 mm long, faces transversely rippled with c. 6 ridges, dorsal margin distinctly keeled; beak slender, erect or recurved, c. 1–2 mm long.

S.A.: MU; N.S.W.; Vic. Known in S.A. from a single collection from a drainage ditch at Paringa near the Murray River just west of the Vic. border, possibly representing a transient occurrence or accidental introduction. Flowers: Jan (1 record).

## References

- Culham, A. (2007). Ranunculaceae. In: Heywood, V.H., Brummitt, R.K., Culham, A. & Seberg, O. (eds), *Flowering plant families of the world*, pp. 273–276 (Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: Richmond)
- Eichler, H., Jeanes, J.A. & Walsh, N.G. (2007). Ranunculaceae. In: Wilson, A.J.G. (ed.), *Flora of Australia* 2: 290–357 (2007)
- Hilty, J. (2003–2011). Rocket larkspur. In: *Illinois Wildflowers: Weedy wildflowers of Illinois*. [http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/rk\\_larkspur.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/rk_larkspur.htm) [accessed: 21 Sep. 2011]
- Kloot, P.M. (1976). The species of *Adonis* L. naturalized in Australia. *Muelleria* 3: 200–207
- Tamara, M. (1993). Ranunculaceae. In: Kubitzki, K., Rohwer, J.G. & Bittrich, V. (eds), *Families and genera of vascular plants* 2: 563–583 (Springer: Berlin)
- Warnock, M.J. (1997). *Consolida*. In: Flora of North America Editorial Committee (eds), *Flora of North America: north of Mexico* 3: 240–242