

*Ranunculus repens* (creeping buttercup), native to Europe and western Asia, is a perennial herb to about 50 cm high that roots at the stem joints (nodes). Leaves (to 12 cm across) are variable in shape, but usually square to triangular in outline, deeply divided into three lobes with toothed or divided margins, those near the base usually on long stalks. Achenes are flattened egg-shaped to oblong, smooth or sometimes minutely pitted and have a slightly curved beak. Flowers most of the year. Locally common in cooler districts in moist disturbed sites, ditches, roadsides and shaded forest. [NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, Qld]

*Ranunculus sardous* (pale hairy buttercup), native to Europe, is a hairy annual herb to about 60 cm high. Leaves (2–6 cm long) are similar to *Ranunculus repens*. Achenes are flattened and almost circular, usually with scattered warts near the margin and have a small curved beak. Spring to summer flowering. Seasonally abundant in irrigated or swampy lowlands in the eastern parts of Victoria and in Tasmania. [NSW (possibly), Vic, Tas, SA]

*Ranunculus sceleratus* (celery-leaf buttercup), native to Europe, is a fleshy, erect, semi-aquatic annual herb to about 80 cm high. Leaves (2–6 cm long) are glossy and deeply divided into three lobes with wavy or divided margins. Flowers have small petals bent backwards. Achenes are flattened egg-shaped with a minute beak and numerous in elongated spikes. Spring to early summer flowering. Poisonous to livestock. Widespread. [NSW, Vic, SA, Qld]

*Ranunculus trilobus* (large annual buttercup), native to south-western Europe, is a stout, erect annual herb to about 80 cm high. Leaves (to 6 cm long) are more or less square to triangular, deeply divided into three lobes usually divided again into three narrow toothed lobes. Achenes are flattened, broadly egg-shaped to spherical, covered with small warts and have a small triangular beak, clustered in slightly elongated fruiting spikes. Spring to early summer flowering. Occasional on wet heavy soils. [NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, WA]



*Ranunculus parviflorus* fruit cluster (bottom left)

TJ



*Ranunculus repens* fruit cluster (left)

RFR



*Ranunculus sardous* fruit cluster (left)

PB/TJ