

BOTANICAL REPORT *Ranunculus* hybrids on Mt Burns

Alan Mark reports collecting two *Ranunculus* hybrids from Mt Burns, as follows:

R. lyallii × *R. buchananii* plants were relatively common, and flowering, in early January this year, localised in the snowbank on the eastern aspect slope just below the main summit ridge and directly above the large cirque lake at about 1500 m. Such hybrids apparently are not uncommon throughout the shared range of the two species according to Fulton Fisher (1965).

R. lyallii × *R. ensyii* plants were present on the steep western aspect slope dominated by midribbed snow tussock on the "trail" to the summit below the main stream. Such hybrids were not reported by Fisher (1965) which may not be surprising since their area of overlap is limited and this location is close to the western limit of *R. ensyii*.

Specimens of both have been lodged in OTA.

Reference: Fisher, FJF. (1965) *The Alpine Ranunculi of New Zealand*. Botany Division, DSIR Bulletin 165, New Zealand.

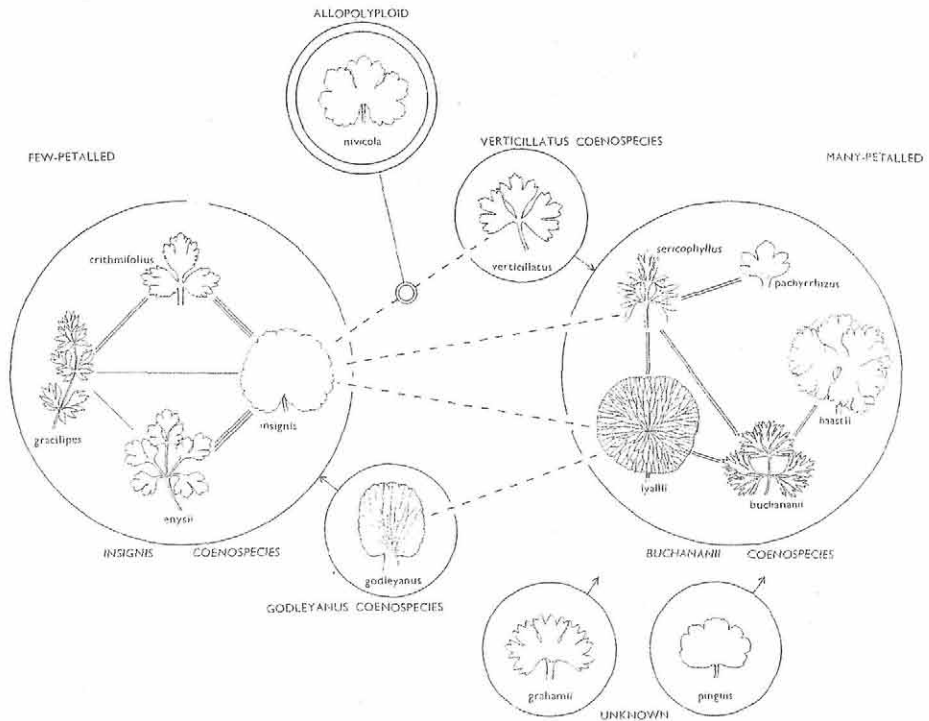


Fig. Breeding relations of the alpine *Ranunculi* according to Fisher (1965). Broken lines connect sterile hybrids. Degrees of fertility between coenospecies are indicated by the number of connecting lines. Arrows indicate probable combinations suggested by morphological affinities.