

Ranunculus glacialis

Ranunculus glacialis, the glacier buttercup^[1] or glacier crowfoot, is a plant of the family Ranunculaceae. It is a 5-10(-20) cm high perennial herb. Often with a single relatively large (1.8 - 3.8 cm) flower, with 5 petals first white later pink or reddish. The underside of the 5 sepals are densely brown-hairy. The leaves are fleshy, shiny, and deeply lobed, forming 3 leaflets.^[2]^[3] *Ranunculus glacialis* reported (from Greenland material) to have a diploid chromosome number of $2n = 16$.^[2]

Ranunculus glacialis is an Arctic–alpine species, found in the high mountains of southern Europe (Alps, Pyrenees, Carpathians, Sierra Nevada) as well as on the Scandinavian peninsula, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Jan Mayen, Svalbard, eastern Greenland^[4]^[5] and Finland, where is endangered and protected.^[6]

It has been described as being one of the highest-ascending plant in the Alps, flowering at over 4,000 m.^[7]

It is found in fell-field and snow-bed sites, on edges of meltwater streams.^[6]

Several subspecies are described.^[8]

One subspecies, *Ranunculus glacialis* subsp. *chamissonis*, is found on either side of the Bering Strait in Siberia, Russia and Alaska, U.S..

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