THE IDENTIFICATION OF SOME COMMON BUTTERCUPS (*Ranunculus* spp.)

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THE identification of the common, economically significant buttercups (*Ranunculus* spp.) can be made with reasonable accuracy in the field on the basis of: 1, shape of basal or rosette leaves; 2, presence or absence of hairs; and 3, growth habit.

The characteristic shape of the basal, ground, or rosette leaves (the stem leaves are often markedly different) of the different species is shown in Fig. 3, and other characters which will facilitate identification are provided in the following key to the species:—

1. Leaves hairy	.. (proceed to)	2
Leaves lacking hairs, often shining ..	.. (proceed to)	6
2. Leaf margins toothed or entire	.. (proceed to)	3
Leaf margins deeply cut, with distinct segments	(proceed to)	4
3. Leaves densely soft hairy, distinctly toothed (Fig. 3 F)	<i>R. parviflorus</i>	
Leaves with few hairs, closely pressed to surface, faintly toothed or entire (Fig. 3 GH)	<i>R. flammula</i>	
4. Leaves deeply cut to fine segments; stalks of all segments of about same length (Fig. 3 A)	<i>R. acris</i>	
Leaves with middle segment with stalk distinctly longer than those of side segments .. (proceed to)		5
5. Leaves dark green; plant with above-ground, rooting runners (strawberry-like) (Fig. 3 B,C,D) ..	<i>R. repens</i>	
Leaves light green; plant erect, lacking above-ground runners (Fig. 3 I)	<i>R. sardous</i>	
6. Leaves entire or shallowly toothed only (Fig. 3 GH)	<i>R. flammula</i>	
Leaves more deeply cut	(proceed to)	7
7. Leaves small, cut to fine segments; plant creeping, often forming mats or patches (Fig. 3 J) ..	<i>R. rivularis</i>	
Leaves larger, less finely cut, celery-like; plant erect, not creeping, stem hollow (Fig. 3 E)	<i>R. sceleratus</i>	

Bulbous buttercup (*R. bulbosus* L.), characterised by the swollen, bulb-like base and hairy basal leaves with stalked middle segment, has been recently collected by Mr. D. C. Isaacs from Pakuranga, Auckland.