Glacier crowfoot

Ranunculus glacialis L., 1753

This small plant has slightly fleshy leaves, cut into several rounded lobes. Its flowers have 5 white petals often tinged with purple-pink on the underside. The centre of the flower is occupied by a cluster of golden yellow stamens. It is the largest flower to be found at such altitudes in the Alps! The sepals* are covered with red hairs.

*Sepals: small modified leaves, with a rough texture and grassy appearance, found between the stem and the petals, which serve as the outer sheath of the floral calyx.

Not to confuse

The Alpine buttercup (R. alpestris) never has hairs on the sepals; the Seguier buttercup (R. seguieri) has neither red hairs nor a pink tinge on the underside of the petals.



Common names Glacier Crowfoot

Environment High altitude rocky ridges and screes

Altitude 1900-3750 m

Season

• june-september

Size 5 to 20 cm

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