

Euphrasia repens

SYNONYMS

Euphrasia umbellata Petrie

FAMILY

Orobanchaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphrasia repens Hook. f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

EUPREP

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island and Stewart Island/Rakiura: Coastal Fiordland to Toetoes Bay; coastal and sand pans of Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

Sandy, shingly and boggy places on coasts of Foveaux Strait and adjacent islets.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender succulent annual herb usually forming matted patches. **Stems** much and often ± umbellately branched, branches creeping and rooting at nodes or ascending, usually flattened with membranous wings, glabrous or with sparse flattened jointed hairs. **Leaves** sessile and subsheathing at base, 2.5–4–(6) × 1–3 mm, oblong- to ovate-cuneate, upper  -1/3 digitately divided into 3–5–(7) subacute to acute linear segments 0.5–2 mm long, middle segment usually greater than lateral segments, membranous when dry, glabrous or sparsely white-hairy, rarely with 1–2 setae at tips of segments. **Flowers** usually borne singly, subsessile or on pedicels up to 10 mm long. **Calyx** 3–4–(5) mm long, divided approximately 1/2 way; lobes lanceolate-triangular, acute, glabrous or occasionally setose at tips. **Corolla** white, (6)–10–13 mm long; tube slender, up to 9 mm long, much longer than calyx; lobes of lower lip up to 2 mm wide, entire. **Anthers** yellow to golden brown, glabrous or with a few marginal hairs, awns small, almost equal. **Capsule** shorter than calyx, densely setose at apex; seeds 2 per locule, 1.1–1.4 mm long, narrowly elliptic.



Ex. Black Point, Southland. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Morphologically similar to *Euphrasia dyeri*, from which it differs by being a plant of coastal sands, usually creeping and rooting, often forming tight mats; leaves 2.5–4–(6) × 1–3 mm, divided not greater than 1/3 way, segments sub-acute to acute, middle segment usually wider than lateral.

FLOWERING

January–March.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

February–April.

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds is dispersed by wind and possibly water and ballistic projection (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

euphrasia: Eye-medicine

repens: From Latin *reperere* meaning to creep, means creeping

TAXONOMIC NOTES

In Allan (1961), Petrie distinguished his *E. umbellata* from *E. repens* by its larger size, more erect and not rooting habit, and larger, more divided leaves. Though the type specimens and other collections from the Oreti mouth are luxuriant and ascending as he described, they bear occasional roots at lower nodes, and the differences between these and dense mats of small-leaved rooting branches from Bluff and Fortrose seem wholly ascribable to habitat. Cheeseman (1925) treated the two species separately but remarked of *E. umbellata*: “I regard this as nothing more than a large state of *E. repens*”.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by M.D. Ward (3 November 2020) Description adapted from Allan (1961).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.
- Cheeseman TF. 1925. Manual of the New Zealand Flora. 2nd edition. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 163 p.
- Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.
- Webb CJ, Simpson MJA. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch. 428 p.
- Wilson HD. 1982. Field Guide: Stewart Island plants. Field Guide Publications, Christchurch, NZ. 528 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphrasia-repens/>