

# Geranium molle

## COMMON NAMES

dove's foot cranesbill

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual herb to 450 mm tall; stem usually branched from base, pilose, with long eglandular hairs 1.0–1.7 mm long and short glandular/eglandular hairs < 0.5 mm long. **Basal rosette leaves** persistent; lamina 9–4 × 9–52 mm, divided for 0.5–0.75 of its length, pilose, with eglandular appressed hairs; segments 7–9, usually 3–(4)-lobed at apex; lower cauline leaves alternate; petioles to 140 mm, with patent, long eglandular hairs 1.0–1.5 mm long and short glandular/eglandular hairs < 0.5 mm long; stipules 6–9 × 1.5–4.0 mm, ovate-lanceolate, sometimes lobed, abaxially eglandular pilose, glabrous adaxially. **Bracts** 2–3 × 1.3–1.5 mm, pilose with eglandular hairs on abaxial surface and on the margin, glabrous adaxially; peduncles 5–80 mm long, eglandular pilose (hairs 1.0–1.8 mm long) with short (< 0.5 mm) glandular/eglandular hairs; pedicels 5–15 mm, pilose, with eglandular patent hairs 1.0–1.8 mm, and short (< 0.5 mm) glandular/eglandular hairs. **Sepals** (1)–2.5–5.5–(6) × (0.9)–1.2–2.1–(2.5) mm, mucronulate, with scarious margins 0.1–0.2 mm wide, with eglandular hairs 1.0–1.5 mm long and some shorter (< 0.5 mm) eglandular/glandular hairs on the abaxial side, glabrous on the adaxial side. **Petals** (3)–4.5–8.5–(10.5) × (1.5)–2.0–5.0–(7.0) mm, emarginate (notch 1.0–2.5 mm deep), with short claw, bright purple. **Stamens** 10, filaments 4–5 mm, lanceolate, glabrous except for few cilia on the proximal half; anthers 0.7–1.5 × 0.3–0.5 mm, purple. **Gynoecium** 5–6 mm long; stigma purple. **Fruit** 8–14 mm long; mericarps 1.8–2.1 × 1.2–1.4 mm, transversely wrinkled, without longitudinal rib, covering the seed completely, glabrous on the surface, with a few ciliae at the base; rostrum 6–11 mm long, with a narrowed apex 1–3 mm, pilose (with erect-patent eglandular hairs c. 0.3 mm long); stigmatic remnant c. 1–2 mm long, with 5 pilose lobes. Seeds 1.4–1.8 × 1.0–1.2 mm, brownish.

## HABITAT

Common weed of wasteland, grassland, and open places within coastal to montane forest.

## GENUS

Geranium

## FAMILY

Geraniaceae

## AUTHORITY

Geranium molle L.



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**ENDEMIC GENUS**

No

**ENDEMIC FAMILY**

No

**YEAR NATURALISED**

1852

**ORIGIN**

Temperate Eurasia E. to Himalaya, N. Africa, Macronesia

**ETYMOLOGY**

**geranium:** From the Greek geranos 'crane', the fruit of the plant resembling the head and beak of this bird, hence the common name cranesbill.

**NVS CODE**

GERMOL

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geranium-molle/>

**PDF DATE**

25 May 2026