Goodenia radicans

COMMON NAMES
selliera, remuremu, half-star

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS
Blue, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Perennial, ± succulent creeping herb forming matted patches up to 1 m or more in diameter. **Stems and branches**, 1–4 mm diameter, white or yellowish, procumbent (rarely with tips ascendant) held near at or just below substrate surface, widely spreading, rooting at nodes yellowish. **Leaves** 1–4 borne in a fascicles along stem, alternate, appressed to ground or ascending, coriaceous, (± succulent (fleshy)), dark green to yellow-green, glabrous, glossy; petioles 4–40 mm long, slender flattened; lamina 3–50 × 1–10 mm, very variable ranging from orbicular, rhomboid through narrowly spathulate, obovate-spathulate, linear-spathulate to linear, base attenuate to truncate, apex obtuse, subacute to acute. **Inflorescences** single, arising in leaf axils, borne on stout fleshy, bracteate peduncles 4–45 mm, bracts 1.0–2.6 × 0.7–1.3 mm, broadly to narrowly lanceolate, falcate, green, erect; pedicels 1–24 mm long; bracts 0.8–1.0 × 0.6–0.9 mm, subulate-attenuate. **Flowers** 1–2. **Calyx** persistent, calyx lobes 1.2–1.6 × 0.7–1.2 mm, linear to narrow-triangular, green, distally flushed red, apex subacute to acute; corolla 4–11 × 8–16 mm; petals 5, fused in proximal part, inner surface white to pale blue, outer white, pinkish-white to pale red; petal segments 3–8 × 1.5–2.4 mm, lanceolate to narrow-oblong, falcate, acute to acuminate. **Ovary** 1.4–1.9 mm, green, glabrous. **Style** purple-red, stigma glabrous, orange brown. **Stamens** 3, orange-brown. **Fruit** 3.0–6.1 × 2.1–10.0 mm, obovoid to ovoid, truncate, green. **Seeds** 1.0–1.8 mm long, broadly ovate, broadly elliptic to almost circular, biconvex, pale orange yellow to pale brown, winged, wing 0.1–0.3 mm wide, margin irregular, wrinkled, translucent.

SIMILAR TAXA
Goodenia radicans is extremely variable and it warrants further taxonomic investigation. However most forms are distinguished from the from the allied *G. heenanii*, with which it grows, by the usually rhomboid through narrowly spathulate, obovate-spathulate, linear-spathulate to linear leaves. However forms with orbicular leaves that grow on cliffs along the Whanganui – North Taranaki Coastline are difficult to separate from *G. heenanii*. However, both species can be separated by their seeds (Webb & Simpson 2001), those of *G.. heenanii* are 1.0–1.5 mm long (1.0–1.8 mm long in *G. radicans*). Distinction from *Selliera micropyhlla* is less clear, although Webb & Simpson (2001) note that seeds of *S. microphylla* have a narrower wing (< 0.1 mm wide) (see taxonomic notes below).

Fruit. Makara Estuary, Wellington. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/03/2008, Licence: CC BY.


Bluff, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. New Zealand: Manawatāwhi / Three Kings Islands, North Island, South Island, Stewart Island/Rakiura, Chatham Islands.

HABITAT
Coastal to alpine. In permanently to seasonally damp, open sites and depressions such as in sand swales, on cliff tops and on talus slopes below these, in coastal turf, in the marginal turf of lake and ponds, in salt pans. Mostly coastal but also recorded from well inland in the South Island and parts of the Central North Island (such as along the shores of Lake Taupo)

GENUS
Goodenia

FAMILY
Goodeniaceae

AUTHORITY
Goodenia radicans (Cav.) Pers.

SYNONYMS
Selliera radicans Cav.

TAXONOMIC NOTES
Cytologically there is some support for *Selliera microphylla* (see de Lange & Rolfe 2010) but this needs further investigation. Shepherd et al. (2020) treated *Selliera microphylla* as part of their concept of *Goodenia radicans*. This view is not followed because there has not been a published treatment of *Selliera microphylla*. Because one North Island population of *Selliera microphylla* is cytologically distinct from *Goodenia radicans*, further study is needed. Conversations with Dr Kelly Shepherd affirmed that none of the authors of Shepherd et al. (2020) had examined *Selliera microphylla*, rather they had relied on a personal perspective expressed to them of its status by one New Zealand botanist. As *Selliera microphylla* is under threat from land development and invasive weeds, it is felt its relegation into synonymy within a broad concept of *Goodenia radicans* without appropriate assessment is premature and from a conservation view point unwise (see *Selliera microphylla*). TEST

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
August–April

FRUITING
October–June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE
Easily grown from fresh seed and by the division of established plants. Does best in a permanently damp site in full sun. Not particularly fussy about soil fertility. Selliera makes an excellent “no-mow” lawn. As a species, selliera is extremely variable and some critical selection of this diversity by horticulturists is needed to find the best forms suited to cultivation.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
FACW: Facultative Wetland
Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY
radicans: Creeping and rooting

NVS CODE
GOORAD

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 16

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.
Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help
The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
de Lange PJ, Rolfe JR. 2010. New Zealand indigenous vascular plant checklist. New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, Wellington, NZ. 131 p.
Duguid F. 1985. *Selliera radicans* with regular corolla. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin 42*: 84.
Shepherd KA, Lepschi BJ, Johnson EA, Gardner AG, Sessa EB, Jabaily RS. 2020. The concluding chapter: recircumscription of *Goodenia* (Goodeniaceae) to include four allied genera with an updated infrageneric classification. *PhytoKeys 152*: 27–104. https://doi.org/10.3897/phytokeys.152.49604
Webb CJ, Simpson MJA. 2001. Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Manuka Press, Christchurch. 428 p.

ATTRIBUTION
Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 June 2012. Description from herbarium material and fresh plants except for the seed description which is modified from Webb & Simpson (2001). Common name 'half-star' added by C C Ogle 24 Oct 2019.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
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MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/goodenia-radicans/

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