

Haloragis erecta subsp. cartilaginea

COMMON NAME

Surville Cliffs haloragis

SYNONYMS

Haloragis cartilaginea Cheeseman

FAMILY

Haloragaceae

AUTHORITY

Haloragis erecta subsp. cartilaginea (Cheeseman) Orchard

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

HALESC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, ST, OL

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island only, where it is supposedly confined to the 120 ha exposure of serpentinitised peridotite rocks at the Surville Cliffs, North Cape. However similar plants have been found elsewhere in Te Pahi, and in 2011 this subspecies was found growing on peridotite and gabbro east of the North Cape serpentinitized zone

HABITAT

Abundant on open serpentinite scree, as gully heads, on cliff faces and on bare clay pans. Dislikes competition. This is one of the few Surville Cliff ultramafic endemics to have recolonised the former workings of the serpentinite quarry.



Surville Cliffs. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/11/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Surville Cliffs. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/10/2009, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent, perennial herb forming sprawling patches up to 300 x 150 mm; stems numerous, tetragonous, usually dark maroon or purple-black, minutely pubescent, with larger hairs on the angles. Leaves opposite, rather closely spaced, broadly ovate to ovate-oblong, dark brownish-green to orange-green, coriaceous, minutely and harshly scabrid, blade 14-20 × 10-13 mm, petiole very short and pubescent, margins regularly shallowly serrate. Inflorescences, many-flowered racemes terminating branches, leafy bracts subtending clusters of flowers and bracteoles. Flower c.3.5 mm long, on short pubescent pedicel; sepals pubescent, triangular, exceeding ovary length and reaching halfway up petals; petals c.3× ovary length, minutely scabrid on keel; stamens 8, anthers as long as petals, filaments very short; ovary 4-lobed, styles 4, short, erect, stigma covered with short lax multicellular hairs. Fruit c.3.5 mm. long (including calyx-lobes) subpyriform, smooth and cylindrical above, below swollen into 4 rounded lobes, rugose, rarely and then usually only slightly winged; pericarp woody, loculi 4, 1-seeded.

SIMILAR TAXA

None. *Haloragis erecta* (Murray) Oken subsp. *erecta* differs by its mostly erect rather than decumbent growth habit and lanceolate to elliptic or oblong-elliptic leaves. However, some forms of *H. erecta* subsp. *erecta* (especially those found along the South Wellington Coast) approach subsp. *cartilaginea*, differing only by their narrower, less harshly scabrid leaves.

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed. Forms a small creeping to semi-erect shrub. Ideal for exposed dry soils. Does best if the soil is enriched with a magnesium fertiliser but this is not necessary.

THREATS

A locally common range restricted endemic listed only because of the small geographic area it occupies.

ETYMOLOGY

haloragis: Salt grapes

erecta: Erect

cartilaginea: Like cartilage

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

TAXONOMIC NOTES

In cultivation, over time plants become more lax and the leaves less harsh textured.

Haloragis erecta subsp. *cartilaginea*

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (3 November 2005). Description based on Webb et al. (1988) and observations made from fresh material and herbarium specimens.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C. J.; Sykes, W. R.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1988: *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. Christchurch, New Zealand, Botany Division, D.S.I.R.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haloragis-erecta-subsp-cartilaginea/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/haloragis-erecta-subsp-cartilaginea/>