

# Haloragis erecta subsp. cartilaginea

## COMMON NAMES

Surville Cliffs haloragis

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## 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 x 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.3x 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.

## 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 serpentinitised zone

## HABITAT

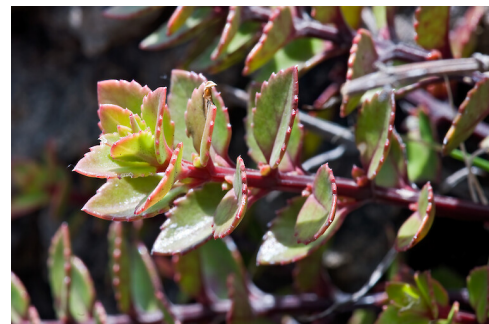
Abundant on open serpentinite scree, as gully heads, on cliff faces and on bare clay pans. Dislikes competition. This is one of the few Surville Cliff ultramafic endemics to have recolonised the former workings of the serpentinite quarry.

## THREATS

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

## GENUS

*Haloragis*



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



Flowers. Surville Cliffs. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 17/11/2010, Licence: CC BY.

## FAMILY

Haloragaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Haloragis erecta* subsp. *cartilaginea* (Cheeseman) Orchard

## SYNONYMS

*Haloragis cartilaginea* Cheeseman

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

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

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## 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.

## ETYMOLOGY

**haloragis:** Salt grapes

**erecta:** Erect

**cartilaginea:** Like cartilage

## NVS CODE

HALESC

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

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

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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.

## 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.

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### **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/>

### **PDF DATE**

25 May 2026