

Hoheria glabrata

COMMON NAMES

mountain lacebark

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small spreading soft-wooded deciduous tree inhabiting wetter mountain areas of western South Island and Mt Taranaki. Leaves thin, widest at base and narrowing to point, margin with many uneven blunt teeth, on long stalks. Flowers white, cupped, developing into a dry narrowly-winged fruit.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 10 m tall, deciduous; hairs stellate; leaves heteroblastic. Juvenile leaves: lamina 13–50 × 15–30 mm, broad-elliptic to suborbicular, both surfaces sparsely hairy or glabrate; apex subacute to acute; base cordate to weakly truncate; margin deeply lobed to strongly crenate; petiole 20–55 mm long, sparsely hairy. Adult leaves: lamina 36–180 × 25–80 mm, elliptic to ovate, adaxial and abaxial surfaces sparsely hairy to glabrate; apex acute to acuminate; margins crenate or double-crenate; base cordate to occasionally weakly truncate; petiole 25–85 mm long, sparsely to moderately hairy. Flowers axillary, solitary or in cymose fascicles of 2–3. Pedicels 12–25 mm long, sparsely to moderately hairy. Calyx 3.7–6.0 mm high, 7.0–9.2 mm wide, campanulate, densely hairy; lobes 5–6, 2.2–4.1 × 2.8–3.4 mm, triangular, apex acute. Petals 5(–6), 12.8–20.5 × 11.7–15.5 mm, white, oblong-orbicular to broadly oblong, adaxial surface and margin toward proximal part with scattered simple hairs, abaxial surface sparsely to moderately hairy; claw 1.5–2.5 mm long. Stamens 34–42; filaments 8.5–13.5 mm long, white, in pairs and adnate for one-quarter to three-quarters of their length, column with stellate and simple patent hairs; anthers 0.7–0.8 mm long. Carpels 10–15; ovary ovoid, 0.8–2.0 mm long, 0.8–2.0 mm diameter, densely hairy; style 8.7–10.6 mm long, pink, sparsely hairy, fused in lower half; stigma 0.3–0.4 mm diam., capitate to slightly decurrent with style. Mericarp body 3.8–4.8 × 3.5–4.1 mm, broadly elliptic, laterally compressed; wing 2.0–3.4 mm wide, extending from upper two-thirds of dorsal surface, weakly ribbed, sparsely hairy, margin irregularly toothed. Seeds 2.9–4.5 × 1.9–3.2 mm, orange brown, glabrous, semicircular to triangular, broader toward base, biconvex or with a rounded dorsal surface, with a narrow wing c. 0.5 mm wide, usually separating from mericarp at maturity. Description from: Heenan et al. (2005).



Routeburn Track, Fiordland. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Borland Saddle, Fiordland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 01/04/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguishing Characters: *Hoheria glabrata* is distinguished from *H. lyalli* by the longer leaves with distinctly cordate bases, sparsely hairy surfaces, shallow marginal indentations, and an acuminate apex.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island only, where found mainly west of the main divide but extending eastwards into Central Otago, where it overlaps with *H. lyallii*

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Occupying a wide range of open and disturbed habitats including forest margins and open forest, montane scrub, avalanche trails and slip scars, along river and stream banks, and river fans

GENUS

Hoheria

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Hoheria glabrata Sprague et Summerhayes

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

February - March

FRUITING

April - July

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Winged mericarps are dispersed by wind (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Best from fresh seed. An extremely attractive species, unusual in the New Zealand flora for its deciduous habit. Prefers a damp soil in a sunny site, and does best in cooler climates. Dislikes humidity and will not flower in warmer climates unless it is subjected to cold treatment

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

ETYMOLOGY

hoheria: Latin version of the Maori name houhere which refers to *H. populnea* and *H. glabrata*.

glabrata: Hairless

NVS CODE

HOHGLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

Heenan, P.B.; Dawson, M.I.; Redmond, D.N.; Wagstaff, S.J. 2005: Relationships of the New Zealand mountain ribbonwoods (*Hoheria glabrata* and *H. lyallii*: Malvaceae), based on molecular and morphological data. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 43: 527–549.

Moorfield, J. C. (2005). *Te aka : Maori-English, English-Maori dictionary and index*. Pearson Longman: Auckland, N.Z.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 3 April 2011

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Hoheria glabrata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hoheria-glabrata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hoheria-glabrata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026