

Lobelia glaberrima

SYNONYMS

None (described in 2008)

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobelia glaberrima Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

LOBGLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south west Canterbury, Otago, southern Westland and Southland)

HABITAT

Alpine and montane habitats. Usually in a wide variety of habitats including snowbanks, tarn and bog margins, herbfield and grassland, rock bluffs, and rock and debris slopes



Minaret Burn, March. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Lobelia glaberrima, Takitimu Mountains. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 17/02/2020, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Creeping, prostrate, glabrous herb; rooting at leaf nodes. Leaves alternate, upright to spreading; lamina 2.5–7.0 × 2.5–8.5 mm, orbicular to broadly orbicular, glabrous or rarely sparsely hairy on margin, green, often flushed red on margin and abaxial surface; margin serrate, a prominent terminal tooth, 5–7 lateral teeth, teeth up to 1.2 mm long, triangular, apex subacute to obtuse, sinus broadly obtuse; petiole 0.5–2.0 × 0.6–0.8 mm, green, often flushed red. Flowers hermaphrodite, axillary, solitary; scent pungent. Peduncle 2.0–4.0 mm long. Calyx with short tube adnate to ovary; lobes 5, 1.4–3.9 × 0.6–1.2 mm, green, narrow triangular to lanceolate; apex subacute. Corolla up to 10.5 mm long in late bud, 6.0–12.0 mm diameter when open, white; tube 3.2–6.0 mm long, 1.9–2.4 mm wide, split to near base; lobes 5, ovate to lanceolate, apex acute to subacute, front three lobes 2.3–4.5 × 1.7–1.9 mm, back two lobes 3.2–4.2 × 1.2–2.7 mm. Nectary 0.5–0.7 mm high, green, glabrous to occasionally sparsely hairy. Ovary 1.8–2.9 × 2.4–2.6 mm, green. Style 5.0–6.9 × 0.5 mm, white, flushed pink. Stigma bilobed, pink, 0.4–0.6 mm diameter. Filaments 2.3–4.2 × 0.2–0.4 mm, glabrous or rarely sparsely hairy in lower part, fused below anthers, attached to corolla tube in lower quarter, white, often flushed green. Anthers united into a tube around style, 1.3–2.2 mm long, purple black, curved over at top. Capsule 3.2–6.0 × 3.1–5.3 mm, globose, thin walled, seeds visible through wall, disintegrating with age; apex crowned with persistent style base; base obtuse. Seed elliptic-oblong to broadly elliptic, sometimes slightly compressed, 0.5–0.6 × 0.4–0.5 mm; apex and base obtuse or rounded; margins rounded; testa orange-brown to red-brown, semi-glossy, glabrous, finely reticulate, cells elongate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Lobelia macrodon* from which it is distinguished by having narrower calyx lobes, a shorter corolla tube and smaller corolla lobes, shorter stamens with smaller anthers, a smaller ovary with a shorter style, a weakly pungent scent, and a tetraploid (2n = 28) rather than diploid (2n = 14) chromosome number.

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Best in a rock garden or kept in a pot.

THREATS

Not Threatened. Previously listed as "Data Deficient" (as *Pratia* aff. *macrodon* (AK 255606; Old Man Range) by de Lange et al. (2004).

ETYMOLOGY

lobelia: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (16 August 2008). Description adapted from Knox et al. (2008)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Norton, D.A.; Heenan, P.B.; Courtney, S.P.; Molloy, B.P.J.; Ogle, C.C.; Rance, B.R.; Johnson, P.N.; Hitchmough, R. 2004, Threatened and uncommon plants on New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 45–76.

Knox, E.B.; Heenan, P.B.; Muasya, A.M.; Murray, B.G. 2008: Phylogenetic position and relationships of *Lobelia glaberrima* (Lobeliaceae), a new alpine species from southern South Island (New Zealand). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 77–85

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lobelia-glaberrima/>