

Lobelia linnaeoides

COMMON NAMES

mountain lobelia

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

Glabrous or glabrate creeping herb. Sap clear. Stems up to 15 mm long (rarely more), simple or sparingly branched, slender, rooting at nodes, usually decumbent. Leaves subsessile, rather thick and fleshy, 4-8 × 4-8 mm, ± orbicular, rather coarsely sinuate-dentate in upper ½, dark green or grey-green, often purplish below. Flowers 8-12 mm long, on very slender (almost wiry), filiform peduncles 50-100 mm long. Calyx c.4 mm long, deeply divided to c.½ way, 4 mm long; lobes c.2 mm long, very narrow-triangular, acuminate. Corolla 8-10 mm long, white, pale blue, mauve or pale pink, deeper coloured in bud; lower lobes obovate or obovate-oblong, ± apiculate, upper lobes linear-oblong, acute. Capsule 5-9 × 3-4 mm; narrow-obovoid to turbinate

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand lobelia by the montane to alpine grassland habitat preference; prostrate, creeping growth habit, clear sap, dark green to grey-green, thick (almost succulent), glabrous or glabrate, coarsely sinuate-dentate, subsessile, orbicular leaves; usually pale blue or pale pink flowers with linear-oblong corolla lobes; and by the loculicidally dehiscent narrow-obovoid to turbinate capsule, with the apical part of the capsule splitting at the apex by two valves).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (from Marlborough to Southland)

HABITAT

Higher montane to alpine grassland and shrubland, often on patches of bare ground

GENUS

Lobelia

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobelia linnaeoides (Hook.f.) Petrie

SYNONYMS

Pratia linnaeoides Hook. f



East Ahuriri. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Lobelia linnaeoides, Lake Dumb-Bell, Ohau. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 15/01/2020, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December – February

FRUITING

January – April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Prefers a cool root run. Dislikes humidity. Best in a free draining site within a rock garden or grown within a pot in an alpine house.

ETYMOLOGY

lobelia: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

NVS CODE

LOBLIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

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 At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, Sp 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

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Webb et al. (1998).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 July 2026