

# Lobelia roughii

## COMMON NAMES

scree lobelia, Rough's 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

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous herb. Stems and leaves when bruised or broken exuding pale yellow acid sap. Roots numerous, rather stout, far-spreading; stems and branches tough, ascending through rock-debris; branchlets appearing above surface, up to 100 mm long. Leaves thick, coriaceous, on broad flat petioles circa 5 mm. long. Lamina circa 10-25 x 10-20 mm; obovate to broad-oblong to elliptic in outline, cuneately narrowed to base; coarsely, deeply dentate; teeth very narrow-triangular, blunt, elongating to circa 6 mm. Flowers circa 10 mm long, on stout peduncles up to 50 mm long. Calyx 5-7 mm long, persistent; lobes linear, thick, obtuse, elongating to c. 8 mm in fruit. Corolla white, hardly > calyx, split to near base into 2 lips; upper lip with 2 narrow segments, lower 3-lobed to c. 1/2 way; anthers not awned. Capsule coriaceous, 10-12 mm. long, broad-obovoid to suborbicular

## SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the restriction to rock-debris and scree habitats; much-branched stems; by the elliptic to oblong or obovate deeply incised leaves which are mostly 12 mm long; by the stout peduncles which are up to 50 mm long; and white flowers

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago)

## HABITAT

Higher montane to subalpine. In rock-debris and stable and mobile screes

## GENUS

Lobelia

## FAMILY

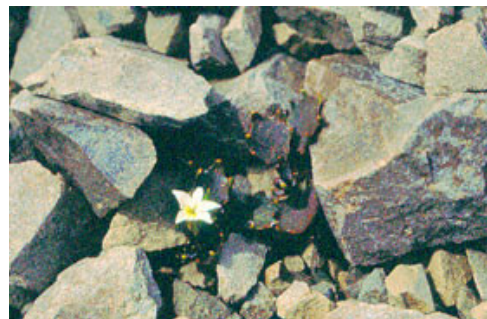
Campanulaceae

## AUTHORITY

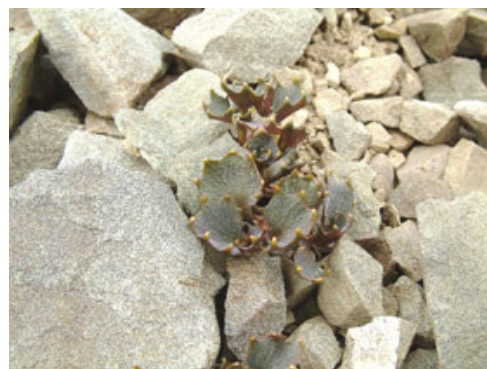
*Lobelia roughii* Hook.f.

## SYNONYMS

None (described in 1864)



Taken at Island Pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Taken at Island Pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

December - April

## FRUITING

October - February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown in a pot or a rock garden. Slow to establish and hard to maintain.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

## ETYMOLOGY

**lobelia**: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

## NVS CODE

LOBROU

## 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, NR, NS, 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, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. DSIR Botany Division, Christchurch.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Webb et al. (1988).

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026