

Veronica amplexicaulis f. amplexicaulis

COMMON NAME

hebe

SYNONYMS

Hebe amplexicaulis var. *erecta* Cockayne et Allan, *Hebe amplexicaulis* var. *suberecta* Cockayne et Allan, *Hebe amplexicaulis* (J.B.Armstr.) Cockayne et Allan f. *amplexicaulis*

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica amplexicaulis J.B.Armstr. f. *amplexicaulis*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low bushy shrub with blue-green oval pairs of leaves which clasp the stem at their base and with very short (to 5cm long) spikes of white flowers inhabiting inland south Canterbury. Leaves broad, with reddish margin, 12-21mm long. Leaf bud with no gap at base.

DISTRIBUTION

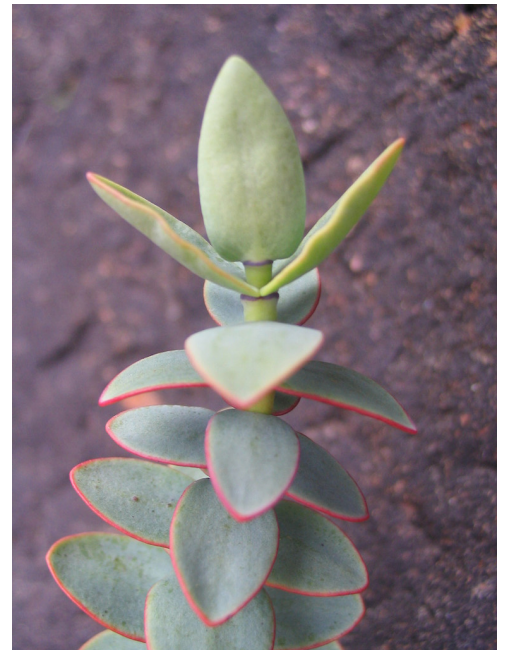
Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south Canterbury (Mt Somers, Mt Peel, Four Peaks Range and Orari Gorge).

HABITAT

Low montane to subalpine (mostly subalpine). A rupestral of steep-sided rock outcrops – where it grows in joints and crevices, gorges and more rarely boulder falls



Hebe amplexicaulis f. *amplexicaulis*, Mt Somers.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Hebe amplexicaulis f. *amplexicaulis*, Mt Somers.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to medium-sized shrubs, branching from the base. Stems trailing to erect, naked except near apex, sparingly branched, glabrous or sometimes with a few hairs near leaf bases, 150-600 mm long. Leaves oblong, spreading, glaucous, glabrous, amplexicaul or abruptly narrowed to broad base, 10-30 × 5-15 mm; apex obtuse, rarely acute; margins red or green. Inflorescence a dense simple spike, peduncle hairy, 20-25 mm. Flowers sessile. Bracts and calyx lobes about equal, 2.0-2.5 mm, ciliate or pubescent all over, broadly ovate, subacute. Corolla white, tube exceeding calyx, lobes narrow. Anthers purple. Capsule ovoid, rounded at apex, narrowly latiseptate, pubescent, very dark brown, about equalling calyx; valves thick walled.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Veronica pareora* from which it is distinguished by its usually shorter stems, smaller leaves, pubescent peduncles, and usually non-pedicellate flowers (some plants in the upper Rangitata area have inflorescences whose basal flowers are pedicellate). *Veronica amplexicaulis* f. *amplexicaulis* differs from f. *hirta* by its glabrous leaves and mostly glabrous branchlets

FLOWERING

October - January (-March)

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

January - December

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed. Prefers a sunny site and should be planted in a free draining soil. Dislikes humidity

THREATS

Not Threatened. A Naturally Uncommon, range restricted and sparsely distributed plant which is widespread but never particularly common within its few known habitats. Some populations may be threatened by browsing animals.

ETYMOLOGY

veronica: Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin *vera* 'truth' and *iconica* 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

amplexicaulis: From the Latin *amplexus* 'clasped' and *caulis* 'stem' or 'stalk', meaning stem-clasping

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (18 August 2006): Description from Garnock-Jones and Mooloy (1982)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Molloy, B.P.J. 1982: Polymorphism and the taxonomic status of the *Hebe amplexicaulis* complex (Scrophulariaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 20: 391-399.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-amplexicaulis-f-amplexicaulis/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-amplexicaulis-f-amplexicaulis/>