

# Veronica amplexicaulis f. hirta

## COMMON NAMES

hebe

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low bushy shrub with blue-green oval finely hairy 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.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small to medium-sized shrubs, branching from the base. Stems trailing to erect, naked except near apex, sparingly branched, uniformly (very rarely bifariously) densely pubescent, 150-600 mm long. Leaves oblong, spreading, glaucous, uniformly pubescent, 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

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. South Island (south Canterbury - mostly Mt Peel)

## 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



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 15/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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## 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.

## GENUS

Veronica

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Veronica amplexicaulis f. hirta (Garn.-Jones et Molloy) Garn.-Jones

## SYNONYMS

Hebe allanii Cockayne; Hebe amplexicaulis f. hirta Garn.-Jones et Molloy

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - January (-March)

## 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.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

## 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

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

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

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **PDF DATE**

25 May 2026