

Veronica calycina

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, SO

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

A prostrate herb up to 150 mm high. The stem and underside of the leaves are mildly hairy, leaves grow in opposite formation. Leaf margins are toothed with those closest to stem being more prominent, veins are obvious and sunken on upper surface. The light blue flowers form at the end of the stems or lateral stems, the inflorescence may have up to 8 blooms.

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Blue

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

See [FloraNZ](#) for details.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: **North Island** (Bay of Plenty, Orokawa Bay). Common in **Australia**.

HABITAT

Open coastal forest amongst grasses and boulders.

THREATS

Unknown. First collected from New Zealand in 1906 but those gatherings were misidentified as *V. plebeia*, it was subsequently rediscovered at the same location in 2010. However, a full survey for the species was not then made, and the identity of the gathering (and those made in 1906) was only confirmed in 2013. Whilst threats to *V. calycina* are unknown, it was listed by the Vascular Plant assessment panel as 'Threatened – Nationally Critical' because of the very small population that would be highly susceptible to any adverse pressures.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica calycina R.Br.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October-February.

FRUITING

November-February.

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'.

calycina: From the Greek kalux (in Latin calyx) 'case of a bud' or 'husk', meaning having a persistent or well developed calyx

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: SO

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MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026