Veronica catenata

COMMON NAMES
pink water speedwell

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Sprawling perennial herb up to 25 cm tall with opposite stalkless leaves and small (c. 7 mm across) pink to pinkish white flowers.

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Fibrous-rooted, perennial plant, sprawling to erect c. 25 cm tall, hairless throughout, or slightly glandular-short-hairy among the flowers. Stems often purplish in colour. Leaves opposite, mostly linear to lanceolate, stalkless and mostly clasping, 1.5-7 (9) cm x 0.3-2 (2.5) cm wide, shallowly toothed to entire. Flowers many in elongated, long-stalked clusters from leaf axils. Sepals highly variable in form and size. Corolla pink or pinkish white 5-7 mm wide. Fruit a capsule almost round 3 mm across. Seeds numerous, 0.5 mm long or less.

SIMILAR TAXA
Similar to V. anagallis-aquatic but V. catenata is smaller with much narrower leaves, the flowers stalk is more spreading, and the flowers are pink.

DISTRIBUTION
Canterbury

HABITAT
Shallow water, swamps and margins of waterways.

GENUS
Veronica

FAMILY
Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY
Veronica catenata Pennel

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
Summer - autumn

FRUITING
Autumn

YEAR NATURALISED
1944

ORIGIN
Temperate Eurasia, North America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Probably a soil seed contaminant or contaminant of ornamental pond plants

CONTROL TECHNIQUES
Not controlled in New Zealand.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING
OBL: Obligate Wetland
Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

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'.

NVS CODE
VERCAT

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.
Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

ATTRIBUTION
Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-catenata/

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