

# Veronica hookeriana

## COMMON NAMES

Hooker's speedwell, Hooker's parahebe

## 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

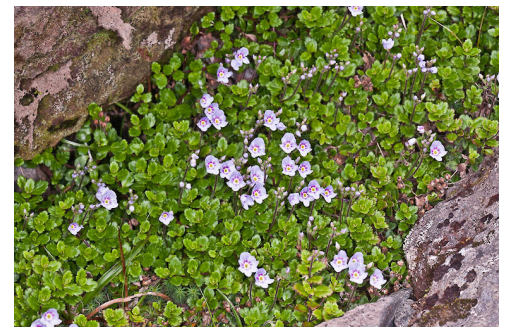
Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low subshrub, loose cushion or mat-forming subshrub to 200 mm tall. Stems brown, red-brown or grey. Branches prostrate to ascending. Branchlets brown, red-brown, green or purplish. Vegetative internodes 2–20 mm long. Leaves erecto-patent to reflexed. Lamina lanceolate, oblanceolate, ovate, obovate, oblong, elliptic, orbicular or rhomboid, 3.0–14.0 × 2.5–10.0 mm, upper surface dull green, bronze green or dark green, under surface pale green, dull. Leaf hairs sparse, numerous or absent. Apex subacute, obtuse or rounded. Base cuneate. Margin glabrous, ciliate, glandular-ciliate or pubescent, bluntly crenate to serrate. Marginal teeth or lobes in 1–4 pairs. Petiole 1–3 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, unbranched, 3–15-flowered. Peduncle 15–60 mm long, eglandular-pubescent, glandular-pubescent or mixed. Rachis 10–70 mm long, eglandular-pubescent, glandular-pubescent or mixed. Bracts alternate, obtuse to acute, eglandular-hairy above or ciliate, lanceolate to elliptic or narrowly deltoid. Bract margins entire. Pedicels erecto-patent at anthesis, straight or incurved at fruiting, 3–18 mm long, eglandular-pubescent to glandular-pubescent. Flowers: Calyx 4-lobed, 2–3 mm long; lobes elliptic to ovate, subacute to obtuse, margins entire. Calyx hairs on margins only or on both under and upper surfaces. Corolla pink, violet, or mauve at anthesis. Nectar guides evident, present on posterior and lateral corolla lobes or on all corolla lobes. Colour ring and nectar guides magenta. Corolla throat yellow. Corolla 6–15 mm diameter. Corolla tube 1.0–1.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm wide, shortly hairy inside. Corolla lobes glabrous. Posterior corolla lobe circular, elliptic or rhomboid, usually obtuse or rarely emarginate, 5–7 × 4.6–6.0 mm. Lateral corolla lobes elliptic, obtuse, longitudinally folded around stamens, 4.5–6.5 × 4.5–8.0 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic or oblong or rhomboid, obtuse, 4–6 × 2–4 mm. Stamen filaments white or coloured, 4–6 mm long. Anthers pink, magenta or violet, 1.0–1.2 mm long. Nectarial disc ciliolate. Ovary ovoid, globose or ellipsoid, obtuse or emarginate, glabrous or sparsely puberulent, 1.0–1.5 mm long. Style 4.0–5.5 mm long. Capsules weakly flattened, truncate to emarginate, 3–6 × 3–5 mm, glabrous. Septicidal split extending to base. Loculicidal split extending ½ way to base. Seeds ellipsoid, obovoid, discoid, pale brown, dark brown or brown, 1.0–3.0 × 0.6–1.3 mm



Ruapehu. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Ruapehu. Feb 2012. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Licence: CC BY.

### SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished by the long, eglandular and sometimes glandular leaf hairs; by the leaf marginal teeth in 1-4 pairs; by the mauve corolla with mauve or magenta nectar guides; glabrous capsules, and 1-3 mm long seeds.

### DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island: (Raukumara, Huiarau, Kaimanawa, Maungaharuru)

### HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. In open sites such as screes, fellfield, banks, rock outcrops and lava fields

### GENUS

Veronica

### FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

### AUTHORITY

Veronica hookeriana Walp.

### SYNONYMS

Veronica olsenii Colenso, Parahebe hookeriana (Walp.) W.R.B.Oliv., Parahebe hookeriana (Walp.) W.R.B.Oliv. var. hookeriana, Parahebe hookeriana var. olsenii (Colenso) Ashwin

### ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

### ENDEMIC GENUS

No

### ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

### FLOWERING

October - January

### FRUITING

November - May

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings, rooted pieces and fresh seed.

### 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'.

**hookeriana:** Named after Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (born 1817) - a world famous botanist who travelled on the Antarctic expedition of 1839 under the command of Sir James Ross and wrote "Handbook of New Zealand Flora" published in 1864-67 describing many specimens sent to Kew by collectors. He died in 1911 and has a memorial stone at Westminster Abbey London.

### NVS CODE

VERHOO

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 181-232

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

08 June 2026