

Veronica hulkeana subsp. hulkeana

COMMON NAMES

NZ lilac

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy small shrub bearing glossy fleshy pairs of red edged oval toothed leaves inhabiting the Kaikoura Ranges. Twigs fuzzy (lens needed). Leaves 20-45mm long by 10-20mm wide on a 10-15mm long stalk that widens towards leaf. Flowers pinkish, in clusters to 50cm long, stems fuzzy.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stem densely puberulent when young, becoming glabrous, hairs glandular or eglandular; eglandular stem hairs patent to recurved. Leaves erecto-patent to spreading; lamina narrowly to broadly lanceolate, ovate, oblong, or elliptic, (10-) 20-45 (-60) x (5-) 10—20 (-35) mm; apex acute, subacute, obtuse, rounded, or truncate; marginal teeth in 5-12 (-20) pairs; adaxial surface of leaves with minute twin-headed glandular hairs on midrib; abaxial surface of leaves glabrous, or sparsely hairy on midrib. Petiole (5-)10-15 (-20) mm long. Rachis glabrous basally, individual rachises of racemes puberulent or glandular-puberulent. Pedicels eglandular-puberulent, 0-0.5 mm long. Calyx (1.5-) 1.8-2.0 (-2.5) mm long; lobes elliptic to broadly obovoid, subacute or obtuse, eglandular-ciliate or with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia. Corolla tube funnelform; lobes glabrous or sparsely ciliate. Stamen filaments inserted between middle and base of corolla tube. Nectarial disk ciliolate, glabrous, or glandular-ciliate. Ovary glabrous, eglandular hairy, or glandular hairy, (0.6-) 0.8 x 0.8 mm, 0.6-0.8 mm thick. Capsule (2.5-) 3.0-4.0 (-4.5) mm long, 2.0 (-2.5) mm thick, glabrous; loculicidal split extending ½ -way to base.

SIMILAR TAXA

This subspecies is distinguished from *Veronica hulkeana* subsp. *evestita* by the densely puberulent young stems and inflorescences and broadly rounded eglandular-ciliate calyx lobes.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island – Marlborough and Canterbury

HABITAT

River gorges, coastal cliffs, rock outcrops, up to 900m, on limestone, greywacke, and conglomerate.

GENUS

Veronica



Kaikoura. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Woodside gorge, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica hulkeana F.Muell. subsp. *hulkeana*

SYNONYMS

Hebe hulkeana (F.Muell.) Cockayne et Allan; *Parahebe hulkeana* (F.Muell.) Heads; *Heliohebe hulkeana* (F.Muell.) Garn.-Jones subsp. *hulkeana*

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October-November

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'.

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. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 31: 323-339.

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Albach, D.; Briggs, B.G. 2007: Botanical names in Southern Hemisphere *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae): sect. *Detzneria*, ect. *Hebe*, and sect. *Labiatooides*. *Taxon* 56: 571-582

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 31: 329-330. © The Royal Society of New Zealand, reprinted by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd, www.tandfonline.com on behalf of The Royal Society of New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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