

Veronica jovellanoides

SYNONYMS

Parahebe jovellanoides (Garn.-Jones et de Lange) de Lange

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica jovellanoides Garn.-Jones et de Lange

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North I. West Auckland, Riverhead Forest.

HABITAT

Known only from a small (20ha) mixed Podocarp/hardwood forest where it grows on shaded, seasonally damp ground amongst sparse ferns, liverworts and mosses alongside a small stream.



In cultivation ex Woodhill Forest. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/11/2008, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Woodhill Forest. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 03/11/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Creeping hairy herb, spreading over 2–3m and rooting freely at nodes; stems up to 2m long but only up to 50mm tall. Old stems and branchlets brown to red-brown, prostrate or decumbent; vegetative internodes 5–30mm long; stem pubescence uniform, eglandular. Leaves decussate but flattened into one plane on prostrate stems; lamina 3.5–11 × 4.5–12mm, orbicular or deltoid or spatulate, thin; upper surface green, dull; lower surface pale green to pinkish, dull; leaf hairs eglandular, antrorse, sparse to scattered along margins and on one or both surfaces especially near veins; apex obtuse to rounded; base truncate to subcordate; midrib weakly evident above and beneath; margins green or reddish, crenate to serrate; teeth in 3–5 pairs each side; petiole narrowly winged, 2–10mm, densely hairy below. Inflorescence racemose, unbranched, 1–7-flowered, 40–80mm long at fruiting; hairs of peduncle, rachis and pedicels uniformly distributed, moderately dense, white; peduncle 15–25mm long; rachis 20–30mm long; bracts alternate, entire, linear to oblanceolate, subacute to acute, hairy below and on margins, glabrous above; pedicels patent or ascending, straight, 7–12mm long. Calyx 4-lobed, 3.5–6.0mm long; lobes equal, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, subacute to acute, margins and lower surface hairy, margins membranous, entire. Corolla 10–12mm diameter, white, with a magenta colour ring outside the throat and very short magenta nectar guides on all lobes; throat yellowish-green, glabrous; tube c. 1.0 × 0.8–1.2mm, glabrous; lobes glabrous; posterior lobe rounded, broader than long, obtuse, spreading, 5.0–5.5 × 6.5–7.0mm; lateral lobes circular, obtuse, spreading, flat, not enfolding stamens, 4.5–5.0 × 5.0–5.5mm; anterior lobe elliptic, obtuse, spreading, 4.5–5.0 × 3.5–4.0mm. Stamen filaments white, slightly narrowed at base and apex, erect and slightly curved inwards towards the style, 4.0–4.5mm long; anthers pink, 0.8–1.0 mm long. Ovary globose to didymous, obtuse, glabrous, 0.6–0.8mm long; style glabrous, white, tapering towards base, 3.5–4.0mm long; stigma capitate, 0.6–0.8mm wide. Capsules splitting when dry but opening further on wetting, narrowly angustiseptate, didymous, green to pale brown, 3.2–6.0 × 3.5–5.5mm, 2–3mm thick, glabrous; style persistent at fruiting; septicidal split extending $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base; loculicidal split extending $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, smooth-surfaced, ellipsoid, pale brown, 1.2–1.8 × 1.0–1.4mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica jovellanoides has no close resemblance to any other species in the genus. *Veronica spathulata*, a central North Island, alpine woody species, has rather similar spatulate leaves, and leaf tothing. However this alpine semi-woody species has longer-tubed pure white flowers.

FLOWERING

October–December.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

December–February.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed, stem cuttings and rooted pieces. Does best in dappled light in a moist but free draining soil. Unfortunately this species is extremely prone to powdery mildew but can seriously damage and even kill plants.

THREATS

Veronica jovellanoides was discovered in a small Queen Elizabeth II Reserve in November 2007. It is currently known from just three plants occupying an area of 6m². Although the species does not seem to be actively threatened the only known population is vulnerable to invasive weeds such as *Tradescantia fluminensis*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Selaginella kraussiana* and *Crocasmia xrocosmiiflora* which are common within the reserve, and also to trampling by people and feral animals.

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'.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Veronica jovellanoides was transferred to *Parahebe* by de Lange in de Lange et al. (2010). This decision was taken to accommodate the species in a genus many people were still wishing to use in preference to *Veronica*. Since then there has been general agreement that the New Zealand segregate genera *Chionohebe*, *Hebe*, *Hebejebbee*, *Heliohebe*, and *Parahebe* should be merged with *Veronica*. Whilst this view is not universally accepted it is now being followed by the NZPCN.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 November 2009): Description based on Davidson et al. (2009).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Davidson G.R.; de Lange, P.J.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 2009: Two additional indigenous species of *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae) from northern New Zealand: *V. jovellanoides*, a new and highly endangered species, and *V. plebeia* R.Br New Zealand Journal of Botany 47: 271–279.

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: *Threatened Plants of New Zealand*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Veronica jovellanoides* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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