

Veronica lanceolata

COMMON NAMES

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

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub to 450 mm tall. Old stems brown, red-brown or grey. Branches prostrate to erect. Branchlets brown or red-brown. Vegetative internodes (5–)8–20(–70) mm long. Stems bifariouly or uniformly eglandular pubescent rarely glabrous. Leaves erecto-patent or spreading or recurved. Lamina linear, lanceolate, oblanceolate, ovate, obovate, oblong, elliptic, orbicular deltoid or rhomboid, 5.0-100.0 × 1.5-25.0 mm. Upper surface of leaves glossy or dull, green, bronze-green, light green or dark green, under surface dull, green, bronze green, pale green or pinkish. Leaf hairs eglandular-glandular, sparse, scattered or absent, along midrib above. Apex acute, subacute or acuminate. Base cuneate, subcordate or cordate. Margin glabrous, serrate (teeth or lobes in 1-15 pairs). Petiole 1–6 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 4-30-flowered, unbranched, 30-350 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels absent to very dense. Peduncle 15-120 mm long. Rachis 15-140 mm long, glabrous, eglandular-pubescent or glandular-pubescent. Bracts alternate, linear, lanceolate, elliptic, ovate or narrowly deltoid, obtuse, subacute, acute or acuminate, margins entire. Pedicels 5-25 mm long, glabrous, eglandular-pubescent or glandular-pubescent. Flowers white at anthesis. Nectar guides evident, present on posterior and lateral corolla lobes. Colour ring and nectar guides magenta. Corolla throat yellow. Calyx 4-lobed, 2-4 mm long, linear, lanceolate, elliptic, ovate, obovate, oblong, acuminate to obtuse, margins entire, surfaces either glabrous or eglandular, glandular, mixed eglandular-glandular on margins undersides surface. Corolla 8-15 mm diameter; tube 0.5-1.5 × 1 mm, hairy inside, hairs short or papillate. Corolla lobes glabrous. Stamen filaments white, 2-4 mm long. Anthers pink or magenta, 0.8-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc ciliolate. Ovary ellipsoid, subacute or obtuse, glabrous, 0.8-1.0 mm long. Style 3.5-7.0 mm long. Capsules weakly flattened, emarginate, 2.5-4.5 × 2.5-4.0 mm, 2.5-3.5 mm thick, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base, loculicidal split of capsule extending 1/3-1/2-way to base. Seeds obovoid or discoid, straw-yellow or pale brown or brown, 0.5-1.1 × 0.5-0.9 mm



Waiohine Gorge, Tararua Forest Park.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
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Waiohine Gorge, Tararua Forest Park.
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SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica lanceolata is most similar to *V. senex* from which it is chiefly distinguished by its much smaller size and more gracile growth habit, green, bronze-green, light green or dark green, glossy or dull, lanceolate to ovate rather than normally dull grey-green, elliptic leaves, which are usually glabrous rather than finely eglandular-pubescent, and by the glabrous rather than short, straight, pale hairy calyces, ovary and capsules.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Coromandel Peninsula, Waikato (Pirongia, Tawarau, Herangi Range, King Country); Taranaki (Mt Messenger, Waitara River to Oakura River and Kaitake Range); Main Divide from East Cape to Wellington; Volcanic Plateau; Manawatu and Wanganui districts) South Island (North-West Nelson (Wakamarama Range)

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually rheophytic, growing within the floodline of streams and rivers or within river gorges. Also colonising damp seepages on silt and sandstone cliffs, and on basalt and limestone bluffs

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica lanceolata Benth.

SYNONYMS

Parahebe catarractae subsp. *lanceolata* (Benth.) Garn.-Jones, *Veronica diffusa* (Hook.f.) Hook.f., *Veronica catarractae* var. *diffusa* Hook.f., *Parahebe catarractae* subsp. *diffusa* (Hook.f.) Garn.-Jones, *Veronica irrigans* Kirk, *Parahebe lanceolata* (Benth.) Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September - April

FRUITING

November - August

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings, rooted pieces and fresh seed.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

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'.

lanceolata: Lance-shaped

NVS CODE

VERLAN

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-lanceolata/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026