

Veronica lavaudiana

COMMON NAME

Banks Peninsula sun hebe

SYNONYMS

Hebe lavaudiana (Raoul) Cockayne et Allan; *Heliohebe lavaudiana* (Raoul) Garn.-Jones; *Parahebe lavaudiana* (Hook.f.) Heads

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica lavaudiana Raoul

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HELLAV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Serious Decline

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy small shrub bearing pairs of fleshy red-edged rounded toothed leaves inhabiting Banks Peninsula. Twigs fuzzy (lens needed). Leaves 12-25mm long on a short stalk. Flowers pinkish, in rounded clusters to 4cm long, on stalks above leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known only from Banks Peninsula.

HABITAT

A species of open rock outcrops and cliff faces, often growing in the most exposed sunny habitats.



Banks Peninsula, Canterbury. Photographer: Jesse Bythell



Banks Peninsula. Photographer: Rick Menzies

FEATURES

Spreading, low shrub 100-300 mm tall. Branches prostrate, trailing, branchlets brown or grey. Leaves spreading to recurved, (7-)12-25(-30) x (6-)8-17 mm, dark green, somewhat glaucous, obovate to orbicular, leathery, margins with 3-10 crenations. Petiole narrowly winged, 2-5(-8) mm. Inflorescence 20-40 mm long, (50-)100-150-flowered. Calyx 4-5 mm, lobes 5, lanceolate to deltoid, acuminate, glandular ciliate. Corolla 11-13 mm, pink at anthesis, white after pollination, throat white or pink, corolla tube 1.5-2 mm long, 1.7-2 mm wide, slightly expanded, Lateral corolla lobes elliptic, subacute, suberect to spreading, posterior corolla lobe longer than tube, rhomboid, subacute, erect. Stamen filaments white, inserted at base of corolla tube, 2.5 mm long. Anthers yellow. Seeds pale brown, (1.7-)2-2.5 x 0.7-1 mm. Chromosome Number $2n = 42$

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other *Veronica* species by the round, dull green leaves, long glandular inflorescence hairs, compact inflorescences, pink flower buds, and large white flowers.

FLOWERING

October to November (-January)

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

January (-March)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and semi-hardwood cuttings. Requires a free draining, sunny spot with reasonably air movement. Prone to fungal diseases and dislikes high humidity.

THREATS

Threatened by gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) with overshadowed plants and other weeds which are invading the open rock outcrop habitat this species requires.

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'.

WHERE TO BUY

Periodically offered by most commercial garden centres. Plants are held by several specialist native plant nurseries.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2004). Description based on Garnock-Jones (1993)

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

CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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