

Veronica linifolia

COMMON NAME

parahebe

SYNONYMS

Parahebe linifolia (Hook.f.) W.R.B.Oliv. subsp. *linifolia*, *Parahebe linifolia* (Hook.f.) W.R.B.Oliv.

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica linifolia Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

PARLIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (North-Western Nelson to the Rangitata River, on both sides of the main divide).

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Inhabiting cliffs, rock outcrops, braided rivers (on river gravel), and river banks.



Haystack ascent. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation ex Lake Daniells. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/05/2011, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low subshrub up to 300 mm tall. Stems brown. Branches decumbent to ascending. Branchlets brown or green. Vegetative internodes 1-10 mm long. Stem bifariously eglandular-pubescent only at distal end of internodes. Leaves erect to reflexed. Lamina linear to oblong (narrowly), 10.0-30.0 × 1.5-3.5 mm. Upper surface of leaves glossy, green; lower surface of leaves dull, pale green. Leaf hairs sparse to scattered, along margins (especially at base), eglandular. Apex rounded. Base cuneate. Margin entire, ciliate (especially at base). Petiole 1.5-4.0 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 1-8-flowered, unbranched, 30-70 mm long at fruiting; peduncle, rachis, and pedicels glabrous. Peduncle 0.5-40 mm long. Rachis 4-42 mm long. Bracts alternate (basal pair sometimes subopposite), linear to narrowly deltoid, obtuse, glabrous or eglandular ciliate near base, margins entire. Pedicels 8-40 mm long, glabrous. Flowers white, sometimes blue, rarely pink at anthesis, corolla throat yellow. Nectar guides evident present on posterior and lateral corolla lobes, colour ring and nectar guides magenta or purple (NW Nelson). Calyx 4-lobed, 4-7 mm long, glabrous or sparsely eglandular hairy on margins; lobes glabrous, lanceolate, deltoid, elliptic or obovate, acute to subacute (acuminate by infolding near apex), entire. Corolla 12-17 mm diameter, tube 0.5-1.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm, hairy inside, hairs long. Stamen filaments white, 4-8 mm long, narrowed at base. Anthers rarely white or pink or magenta, 1.5-2.2 mm long. Nectarial disc ciliolate. Ovary ellipsoid, emarginate, glabrous or apex eglandular hairy, 1.0-1.7 mm long. Style 4-9 mm long. Capsules weakly flattened, didymous, 3.0-4.5 × 3.5-4.5 mm, usually glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base, loculicidal split extending 1/3-1/2-way to base. Seeds ellipsoid, obovoid, discoid, pale brown, dark brown or brown, 0.7-1.3 × 0.5-0.9 mm

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica linifolia is morphologically similar to *V. colostylis*. Both taxa have linear, entire leaves, reduced inflorescences, and broad woody capsules. From *Veronica colostylis*, *V. linifolia* differs by the corolla tube which is 0.5-1.5 mm long and hairy inside rather than 1.2-3.5 mm long, and glabrous; by the spreading rather than suberect lobes; conspicuous nectar guides (lacking *V. colostylis*); by the stamen filaments 4-8 mm rather than 1-3 mm long; and by the style 4-9 mm rather than 2-4 mm long. *Veronica linifolia* is predominantly outcrossing and *V. colostylis* is exclusively autogamous.

FLOWERING

October - February

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

November - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings, rooted pieces and fresh seed. Plants dislikes drought and humidity.

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'.

linifolia: Narrow-leaved

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Veronica linifolia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-linifolia/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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