

# Veronica pareora

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT, RR

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing sprawling shrub bearing pairs of blue-green dished oval leaves on short branches inhabiting rocky areas in the vicinity of Pareora (south Canterbury). Leaves 20-30mm long by 15-18mm, leaf base clasps the stem. Flowers white, in a spike to 7cm long near tip of branches.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large shrubs, branching from the base. Stems hanging or trailing, ascending at tips, naked except near apex, sparingly branched, glabrous, 1-3 m long, and up to 0.5 m tall. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves oblong, ovate, obovate or elliptic, very fleshy-coriaceous, concave, spreading, glaucous, glabrous, amplexicaul to subauriculate, 15-30 × 10-18 mm; apex broadly obtuse; margins never red. Inflorescence a 12-60-flowered raceme; peduncle glabrous, 20-30 mm. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels glandular/eglandular-hairy, 2-5 mm. Bracts narrow-lanceolate, 2-4 mm, glabrous or minutely ciliolate. Calyx glabrous or minutely ciliolate, lobes lanceolate or narrowly oblong, acute or subacute, 2 mm. Corolla white, tube exceeding calyx, lobes narrow. Anthers purple. Capsule broadly angustiseptate, latiseptate or turgid, ellipsoid, emarginate or strongly didymous, glabrous, dark brown, about 3.5-5.0 × 2.5-3.5 mm, 1.5-2.8 mm thick, loculicidal split extending ½-way to base

## SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Veronica amplexicaulis* from which it is distinguished by its much longer, widely spreading stems, much larger leaves, glabrous peduncles, and consistently pedicellate flowers

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south Canterbury – Hunter Hills (Rock Gully, upper Pareora Gorge, White Rock River and Nimrod Stream), possibly also Blue Duck Stream and Opihi River)

## HABITAT

Lower montane to montane. A riparian species of gorges where it grows on rock outcrops, on cliff faces, within ledges and crevices above fast flowing streams and rivers

## THREATS

*Veronica pareora* has a naturally sparse distribution and it was never common within its few known habitats. Prior to 2012, it had been assessed as At Risk – Naturally Uncommon but by 2012 decline in the population was evident and by 2017 the extent and rate of decline warranted its assessment as Threatened – Nationally Critical. Browsing animals are thought to be significant agents of the decline of *V. pareora*.

## GENUS

Veronica

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica pareora* (Garn.-Jones et Molloy) Garn.-Jones

## SYNONYMS

Hebe pareora Garn.-Jones et Molloy

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FRUITING

December - October

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed. Prefers a sunny site and should be planted in a free draining soil. Dislikes 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'.

**pareora:** Named after the Pareora Range, the type locality of this species

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Molloy, B.P.J. 1982: Polymorphism and the taxonomic status of the *Hebe amplexicaulis* complex (Scrophulariaceae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 20: 391-399.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (1 August 2006). Description from Garnock-Jones and Molloy (1982)

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

08 June 2026