

Veronica parviflora

COMMON NAMES

hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

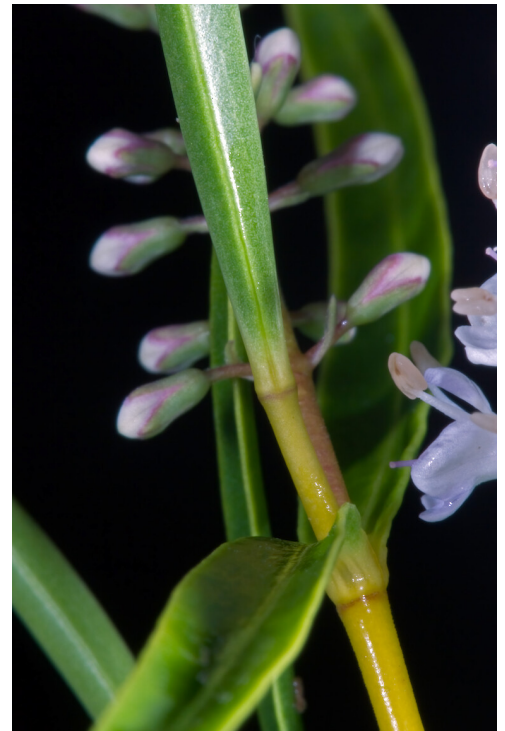
Large rounded shrub bearing pairs of narrow leaves inhabiting forest edges mainly in the east of the North Island. Leaves to 76mm long by 7mm wide, tip with blunt yellow knob, margin hairy (lens needed). Leaf bud without gap. Flowers white, in spikes to 12cm long near tip of twigs.

FLOWER COLOURS

White



Central North Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/01/2009, Licence: CC BY.



No sinus at base of leaf bud. Central North Island. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 18/01/2009, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub or small tree (often highly branched toward the tips, and dome-shaped when young) to 7.5 (-12) m tall. Branches erect, old stems pale grey; branchlets progressing from olive-green to brown or red-brown, puberulent or rarely glabrous, hairs bifarious (mostly) or uniform; internodes (1.5-) 3-17 (-20) mm; leaf decurrencies obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to recurved; lamina lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, subcoriaceous, flat or concave, (8-) 25-60 (-76) x 1.5-7 mm; apex whitish, acute or shortly acuminate; 2 lateral secondary veins sometimes evident at base of fresh leaves; margin scabrous or minutely pubescent (with short, stiff, basally-swollen, antrorse hairs); upper surface light green, dull, usually with many stomata, hairy along midrib; lower surface light green, not pitted (although frequently with many small glandular hairs) or sometimes faintly pitted with small depressions that each contain a twin-headed glandular hair, or often glabrous. Inflorescences with (20-) 40-80 (-130) flowers, lateral, unbranched, (2-) 4-10 (-12) cm; peduncle (0.35-) 0.5-1.9 cm; rachis (1.6-) 3-10.2 cm. Bracts alternate, ovate to deltoid or oblong, acute to obtuse. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels (0.3-) 0.5-3.5 (-4) mm, hairy or glabrous, sometimes recurved in fruit. Calyx 1.5-2.3 (-2.7) mm; lobes ovate to elliptic (often broadly), obtuse to acute (sometimes on one inflorescence). Corolla tube hairy inside; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 2.1-3.8 x 1.4-3 (-3.8) mm, cylindric or slightly expanded in lower half, longer than calyx; lobe, white tinged with pink or mauve at anthesis, ovate (sometimes broadly), obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to recurved, sometimes with a few hairs toward base on inner surface. Stamen filaments incurved at apex in bud, 3-5 mm; anthers magenta, 1.5-2.2 mm; sterile anthers of female flowers very pale lilac or light brown, approximately 1 mm (when dry). Ovary approximately 0.8-1 mm; ovules approximately 8-12 per locule; style 3.5-6 mm, Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.5-3.5 x 1.4-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, ellipsoid to discoid, weakly winged, straw-yellow to pale brown, 0.9-1.8 x 0.8-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.1 (-0.5) mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *V. stenophylla* and *V. strictissima*. It is distinguished from: the former by often smooth (only sometimes pitted) leaf surfaces, minutely hairy leaf margins, corolla tubes that are hairy within and calyx cilia always including twin-headed glandular hairs; and from the latter by having corolla tubes longer than calyces, It can also be more arborescent than either of these species.

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern, central and southern North Island (including the Hen and Chickens and Great Barrier Islands), and northeast South Island, ranging from near Russell (North Island) to near Kekerengu (South Island).

HABITAT

It generally grows in scrub on hillsides, along streams and at forest margins, from near coastal to montane situations.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica parviflora Vahl

SYNONYMS

Hebe parviflora (Vahl) Cockayne et Allan var. *parviflora* nom. superf., nom. illeg., *Veronica arborea* Buchanan, *Veronica parviflora* var. *arborea* (Buchanan) Kirk, *Hebe parviflora* var. *arborea* (Buchanan) L.B.Moore, *Hebe parviflora* (Vahl) Andersen

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Plants are often highly branched toward their extremities, giving a characteristic dome-shaped appearance when young, which may persist to some age in open situations. The species is, however, variable in habit, as it also is in corolla tube length and the degree to which the leaf surface is pitted with recessed glandular hairs. Along the Taruarau and Rangitikei rivers (e.g. WELT 80944, 80945, 81037, 81051) some plants are quite openly branched and similar to *V. stenophylla* in having relatively long corolla tubes and leaves that are distinctly pitted on the lower surface. These plants are included under *V. parviflora* on the basis of their hairy leaf margins, hairy corolla tubes, conspicuous glandular hairs on calyx margins, and flavonoid profile (Bayly et al. 2000).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(September-) January-March (-August)

FRUITING

(January-) February-June (-November)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

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'.

parviflora: From the Latin parvus 'small, puny' and flores 'flowers', meaning small-flowered.

NVS CODE

VERPAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M. J., Garnock-Jones, P. J., Mitchell, K. A., Markham, K. R. and Brownsey, P. J. 2000. A taxonomic revision of the *Hebe parviflora* complex (Scrophulariaceae), based on morphology and flavonoid chemistry. New Zealand Journal of Botany 38: 165-90.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 174-176.

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

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

