

Veronica pimeleoides subsp. faucicola

COMMON NAMES

hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Blue-green sprawling shrub bearing pairs of oval pointed leaves on reddish stems inhabiting dry rocky sites in Otago. Leaves 7.5-15.5mm long by 3.1-8.7mm wide. Leaf bud with small narrow gap between leaves at base. Flowers white or pinkish, in spikes with up to 24 flowers.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small bushy shrub growing up to 70cm tall. Inflorescences have between 4 and 12 flowers. The flowers are mauve but fade to pale pink (or almost white) after pollination.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to South Island, apparently restricted to central Otago in the Manuherikia, Kawarau and Clutha river valleys. May be more widespread.

HABITAT

Occurs in exposed rocky outcrops and cliff faces. Often found growing in gorges.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica pimeleoides subsp. *fauvicola* (Kellow et Bayly) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe pimeleoides var. *rupestris* Cockayne et Allan nom. illeg.; *Hebe pimeleoides* subsp. *fauvicola* Kellow et Bayly

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No



Hebe pimeleoides subsp. *fauvicola*.
Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Flat Top Hill, Alexandra. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

FLOWERING

December - March

FRUITING

January - May

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'.

pimeleoides: Pimeleoides means "resembling Pimelea", a genus in the family Thymelaeaceae (Greek, -oides = resembling, like).

faucicola: From the Latin fauces 'throat, gorge' and -cola 'dweller, inhabitant', meaning gorge dweller in reference to this plant's habitat.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40, 80

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD

2004 | Gradual Decline

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NStr, PF, RR, Sp, TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-pimeleoides-subsp-faucicola/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-pimeleoides-subsp-faucicola/>

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