

Veronica pimeleoides subsp. faucicola

COMMON NAME

hebe

SYNONYMS

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

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

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

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40, 80

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD

2004 | Gradual Decline

BRIEF 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.

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.

FEATURES

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.

FLOWERING

December - March



Kawarau Gorge, January. Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Hebe pimelioides. Photographer: John Barkla

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

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: Like a pimelea

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

Where To Buy

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/>