Veronica raoulii

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | Not Threatened
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION
Bushy shrub bearing pairs of small narrow leaves inhabiting rocky open sites in Marlborough and northern Canterbury. Leaves 7-17mm long, margin with up to 8 pairs of teeth. Flowers pinkish, in clusters of usually more than 30..



Torlesse Range. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FLOWER COLOURS
White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Subshrub or spreading low shrub, 0.07-0.3 m tall. Branches ascending to erect; branchlets dark red-brown; vegetative internodes 2-10 (-15) mm long; stem pubescence glandular and eglandular (glandular hairs minute and obscure). Leaves erecto-patent to spreading or recurved; lamina usually lanceolate or spathulate, sometimes linear-oblanceolate, 7-17 (-25) x 2-6 (-9) mm wide; apex acute or subacute and subapiculate, rarely acute; margin smooth, or ciliate and glandular-ciliate on petiole and sometimes at apex, serrate; teeth blunt, in (0-) 2-4 (-8) pairs; adaxial surface of leaves green or yellowish green, glossy; midrib depressed to grooved above and beneath. Petiole 2-5 mm long. Inflorescence with (16-) 30-80 (-100) flowers; rachis pubescent; bracts opposite and decussate to subopposite to alternate, eglandular-ciliate or ciliate with both glandular and eglandular hairs. Calyx lobes 4 (-5), eglandular-ciliate, or glandular and eglandular-ciliate. Corolla pink to mauve or white at anthesis, white or mauve after pollination. Stamen filaments inserted between throat and middle of corolla tube, 1.5-2.0 mm long. Nectarial disk ciliate to ciliolate, rarely with a few glandular hairs. Ovary glabrous. Style 4-6 mm long, glabrous, white or pale mauve. Stigma narrowly capitate, 0.2-0.25 mm wide. Capsule turgid or broadly angustiseptate, truncate. Seeds (1.2-) 1.5-2.0 (-2.8) x 0.6-1.2 mm.



Lake Lyndon, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
Veronica raoulii is distinguished from Veronica maccaskillii by its narrower, more toothed leaves, often pink corollas, lack of a posterior fifth calyx lobe, and more erect softer habit. Veronica raoulii is distinguished from Veronica scrupea by its oblanceolate leaves with fewer teeth, exserted stamens, and its fused anterior calyx lobes and paler flowers. Veronica raoulii is distinguished from Veronica pentasepala by its fused anterior calyx lobes and lack of a fifth lobe. Veronica raoulii is distinguished from Veronica lavaudiana by its narrower leaves, eglandular indumentum, and more lax inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION
Endemic. South Island – Marlborough and Christchurch

HABITAT
Rock outcrops in grassland and scrub, river gorges, occasionally on talus and scree, not on limestone, 150-1100 m.

GENUS
Veronica

FAMILY
Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY
Veronica raoulii Hook.f.

SYNONYMS
Veronica raoulii Hook.f. subsp. raoulii, Hebe raoulii (Hook.f.) Cockayne et Allan, Hebe raoulii (Hook.f.) Cockayne et Allan var. raoulii, Parahebe raoulii (Hook.f.) Heads,; Heliohebe raoulii (Hook.f.) Garn.-Jones; Heliohebe raoulii (Hook.f.) Garn.-Jones subsp. raoulii

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
(September) October-November (December)

FRUITING
(September) October-November (December)

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'.
raoulii: After Raoul

NVS CODE
VERRAO

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | Not Threatened
2012 | Not Threatened
2009 | Not Threatened
2004 | Not Threatened
Jump to current conservation status

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany 31*: 323-339.
Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Albach, D.; Briggs, B.G. 2007: Botanical names in Southern Hemisphere *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae): sect. *Detzneria*, ect. *Hebe*, and sect. *Labiatoides*. *Taxon 56*: 571-582

ATTRIBUTION
Description adapted by M. Ward from Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: Heliohebe (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from Hebe. New Zealand Journal of Botany 31: 334. © The Royal Society of New Zealand, reprinted by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd, www.tandfonline.com on behalf of The Royal Society of New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-raoulii/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026