

Veronica rigidula var. rigidula

COMMON NAMES

hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low bushy shrub bearing pairs of narrow leaves inhabiting the Richmond Range area. Leaves variable, to 31.4mm long, narrow, u-shaped in cross section. Leaf bud with narrow gap between leaves at base. Flowers white, on very short stalks, in spikes or sprays to 3.2cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low growing, openly branched, bushy shrub 0.3-0.6 m tall. Branches erect or ascending, old stems brown; branchlets green, pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1.0-5.5. mm. Leaf bud distinct, terete to weakly tetragonous in cross-section; sinus narrow and acute. Leaves erect to patent; lamina usually narrowly elliptic, elliptic oblanceolate, thin to coriaceous, upper surface concave, 7.7-31.4 × 2.1-7.4 mm, ratio of leaf length to width (2.7-4.8); apex acute or subacute; margin minutely papillate; upper surface green, dull or slightly glossy, glabrous or minutely hairy along midrib (especially toward base); lower surface glaucous or glaucescent; petiole 2.0-3.2 mm long, glabrous or minutely hairy along margins (especially on youngest leaves) and /or rarely hairy above. Inflorescences with 10-40 flowers, lateral, usually tripartite or rarely with more than 3 branches or unbranched, 14-32 mm long, > or < subtending leaves; peduncle 3-12 mm; rachis 7-28 mm. Bracts opposite and decussate, or opposite and decussate below and becoming alternate above, ovate or deltoid, obtuse or subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels absent or up to 0.8 mm long. Calyx 1.5-2.5 mm; lobes elliptic, oblong or ovate, obtuse or subacute, with mixed glandular/eglandular cilia or wholly eglandular. Corolla tube glabrous 2.5-4.0 × 1.7 mm, cylindric, > calyx; lobes white or pale mauve at anthesis, elliptic, ovate or oblong, obtuse rarely emarginate, suberect to recurved, < corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3-4 mm long; anthers buff or faintly tinged pink, 1.7-2.0 mm. Ovary 0.9-1.0 mm; style 5-7 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.4-4.0 × 1.8-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending ¼-½ way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid, discoid or irregular, brown to pale brown, 0.8-1.6 × 0.7-1.1 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica rigidula var. rigidula differs from var. sulcata by the circular (in cross-section) rather than weakly tetragonous leaf bud, leaves which are distinctly concave above rather than m-shaped in cross-section, and mostly narrowly elliptic.



In cult. ex Pelorus Bridge, Nelson.

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DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (mostly Richmond and Bryant Ranges)

HABITAT

Lowland to montane within sparsely vegetated sites on rock outcrops, crevices, ledges, rubble slopes, boulder falls, or within ravines and river gorges

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted though sparsely distributed species. Though as a rule never that common at any particular site, most populations occur on protected land and there are no known threats.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica rigidula Cheeseman var. rigidula

SYNONYMS

Hebe rigidula (Cheeseman) Cockayne et Allan var. rigidula

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – February

FRUITING

December – October

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed. A very attractive freely flowering shrub that deserves to be more widely cultivated

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries

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'.

rigidula: Engraved

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M.; Kellow, A. 2006: An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press, Wellington.\

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 modified from Bayley and Kelllow (2006)

MORE INFORMATION

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

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25 August 2026