

Veronica scrupea

COMMON NAMES

Waiautoa sun hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Rare low growing reddish shrub bearing clusters of pinkish flowers inhabiting two sites in the Kaikoura mountains. Leaves folded to give a boat-shaped appearance, margins toothed. Flowers in a cluster 1-2cm long at tips of twigs. Fruit a dry capsule.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small shrub, 50-200mm tall. Branchlets upright, red-brown to grey, with thick corky bark. Leaves narrow, leathery and shiny, rigid, 5-15mm long, 2-6mm wide, sides of leaves usually folded upwards to give a boat-shaped appearance; upper surface green to bronze-green and shiny, undersurface very pale, dull, with numerous pores. Leaf margins red with shallow, rounded or sharp teeth. Flower head 1-2cm long, at end of branch (with 30-70 flowers), 5-8mm diameter, bright pink at first, mauve after pollination; throat pink, pale yellow anthers. Seed capsule dark brown, swollen and smooth, 2-2.5mm long, 1-1.5mm wide. Capsules splitting open to one third when ripe.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica raoulii, V. pentasepala are superficially similar. From these V. scrupea differs by having boat-shaped leaves with toothed and reddish margins and no wings on leaf stalks. Veronica raoulii has smaller, pink-mauve to white flowers and broad unfolded leaves. Veronica pentasepala has pink to pale pink flowers and longer, only weakly folded leaves. The latter two species both have narrowly winged leaf stalks.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island: Seaward and Inland Kaikoura Ranges only.

HABITAT

Largely confined to bare eroding ribs of black, excessively shattered greywacke (argillite).

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica scrupea Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Heliohebe acuta Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October to November

FRUITING

Unknown

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from semi hardwood cuttings but difficult to maintain.

CULTIVATION

Not commercially available but plants are held by several Botanic Gardens and specialist growers.

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'.

NVS CODE

VERSCR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2004 | Serious Decline

[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. *Labiatooides*. *Taxon* 56: 571-582

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2004). Description based on Garnock-Jones (1993)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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