

# Veronica subfulvida

## COMMON NAMES

hebe

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing pairs of narrow pointed leaves and bushy white flower spikes inhabiting northern South Island. Leaves 9-32mm long by 3.5-6mm wide. Leaf with narrow gap between leaves at base. Flower spike bushy, to 6cm long, with several branches.

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub to 1.8 m tall. Branches erect and spreading, old stems brown or grey; branchlets green (often with reddish or dark bands at nodes), puberulent, hairs bifarious (usually) or uniform; internodes 1.7-11 mm; leaf decurrencies obscure or evident. Leaf bud distinct; sinus narrow to broad, acute. Leaves decussate or subdistichous. Erecto-patent or patent; lamina elliptic to lanceolate or oblanceolate (sometimes), rigid or subcoriaceous, concave. (6.3-) 9-32 (-38.2) x (2.8-) 3.5-6 (7.5) mm; apex acute to subacute; midrib depressed to grooved above and thickened below (slightly, often keeled near apex); margin minutely papillate and/or ciliate (with short, stiff hairs) and/or glandular ciliate; upper surface green, glossy or dull, without evident stomata (or, occasionally, with a few scattered stomata apparently in sunken pits), hairy along midrib; lower surface lighter green than upper surface; petiole (0.8-) 1.5-3.5 (-4.5) mm, hairy along margins and above. Inflorescences with 24-88 flowers, lateral, with 3 or more branches (occasionally with undeveloped branches in lowest bracts) or unbranched (rarely, and never all inflorescences on one plant), 1-3.6 (-5.9) cm; peduncle 0.35-1.4 cm; rachis 0.7-2.5 (-4.8) cm. Bracts alternate (usually) or lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, ovate to lanceolate or oblong or lowermost sometimes linear, subacute to acute. Flowers probably hermaphrodite. Pedicels 0.5-2 (-4) mm. Calyx 1.9-3.4 mm, 4-5-lobed (5th lobe small, posterior); lobes elliptic to ovate or lanceolate, subacute to obtuse or emarginate (sometimes). Corolla tube hairy inside, (2.1-) 2.5-4.3 x 1.2-2.6 mm, cylindric or funnel form (narrowly), longer than calyx; lobes white or pink at anthesis and with age, elliptic to ovate, obtuse, suberect to patent, longer to shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3.5-5.5 mm; anthers pink or mauve, 1.6-2.6 mm. Ovary 1.1-1.5 mm; ovules 7-11 per locule; style 4.5-8.5 mm. Capsules subacute, 2.9-4.5 x 1.9-3.2 mm, loculicidal split extending ¼-½-way to base. Seeds flattened, broad ellipsoid to discoid, brown (sometimes with an orange component), 1.2-2 x 0.8-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.5 mm.



Bush in flower Onekaka Garden ex Aorere Gorge. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 01/01/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Leaf detail Aorere Gorge. Photographer: Simon Walls, Date taken: 01/01/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Highly variable in terms of habit and leaf size. It resembles *V. diosmifolia* (geographically separated), *V. brachysiphon* and some populations of *V. venustula* (also geographically separated). Distinguished from *V. brachysiphon* by the combination of a bushy, often rounded habit; usually acute leaf bud sinuses; non-glaucous leaves; pedicellate flowers; small bracts; and corolla tubes usually longer than surrounding calyces, not all are present in *V. subfulvida*. It can be difficult to distinguish from *V. brachysiphon*, and for this reason the southern and eastern limits of the species are unclear (i.e. it may extend further south and east than suggested in distribution). It frequently grows with *V. leiophylla*, from which it is distinguished by the usual presence of branched inflorescences, a more elongated sinus and less hairy branchlets.

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island - Nelson and Marlborough, from the Aorere Range to near Nelson Lakes, and D'Urville Island.

## HABITAT

Ranging from riverbanks, rock outcrops of various substrates (e.g. ultramafic or calcareous), scrub and beech forest margins, chiefly in montane to lowland situations, occasionally subalpine.

## GENUS

Veronica

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Veronica subfulvida (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) Garn.-Jones

## SYNONYMS

Hebe divaricata (Cheeseman) Cockayne et Allan, Veronica menziesii var. divaricata Cheeseman, Hebe subfulvida G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson, Hebe corymbosa G.Simpson

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

December-February (-March)

## FRUITING

January-May (-October)

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## 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

VERSBF

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 258

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

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026