

Veronica trifida

COMMON NAMES

hebejeebie

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

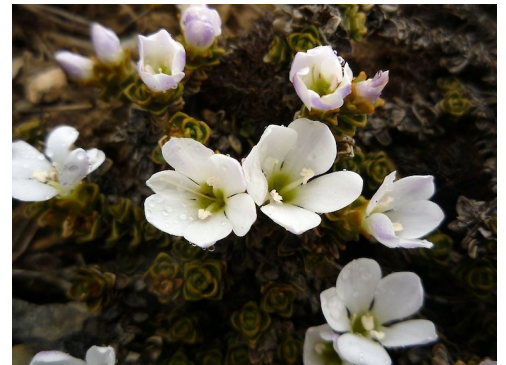
Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White



Mid Dome, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 27/11/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower detail, Mid Dome, Southland.
Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 27/11/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub, 50-200 mm tall. Old stems brown or grey. Branches prostrate to ascending. Branchlets brown or purplish. Vegetative internodes 1-5 mm long. Stems uniformly pubescent hairs uniform, retrorse-appressed, eglandular. Leaves decussate or subdistichous, erecto-patent. Lamina oblanceolate or obovate or oblong or elliptic or spatulate or orbicular (rarely), 2-10 × 1-7 mm. Upper surface of leaves green or bronze green, glossy. Under surface of leaves green or bronze green or purple, glossy. Leaf hairs sparse to scattered or absent, along margins and on petiole, uniseriate glandular with globular head. Apex subacute or obtuse or rounded. Base cuneate. Margin minutely papillate, glandular-ciliate, and ciliate (rarely), rarely entire or crenate or serrate or lobed. Marginal teeth or lobes in 0-3 pairs. Petiole 1-2 mm long. Inflorescence of 1-2 flowers, 15-25 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels moderately dense to very dense. Eglandular hairs of inflorescence deflexed (glandular hairs patent), white. Peduncle 2-10 mm long, eglandular-pubescent and glandular-pubescent; hairs all around peduncle. Rachis 20-50 mm long, eglandular-pubescent and glandular-pubescent, hairs all around rachis. Bracts alternate or paired and opposite, subacute or acute, glandular ciliate, glandular pubescent abaxially, and glandular pubescent adaxially (sparse or absent), elliptic or obovate. Bract margins entire. Pedicels suberect at anthesis, straight at fruiting, 0.5-7.0 mm long, eglandular-pubescent and glandular-pubescent; hairs all around pedicel. Flowers: Calyx 4-lobed, 5-8 mm long. Calyx lobes oblanceolate or spatulate, subacute or obtuse. Calyx hairs on both abaxial and adaxial surfaces, mixed eglandular and mostly glandular. Calyx lobe margins entire. Corolla white at anthesis or mauve at anthesis (rarely). Nectar guides absent. Corolla throat yellow. Corolla 15-20 mm diameter Corolla tube 1.5-3.0 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide, glabrous. Corolla lobes glabrous. Posterior corolla lobe elliptic or obovate, obtuse, 8-10 × 4-7 mm. Lateral corolla lobes elliptic or obovate, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 8-10 × 4-7 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic or obovate, obtuse, 8-10 × 3-6 mm. Stamen filaments white, 3-4 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers mauve to purple, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ellipsoid, acute, glabrous or glandular hairy (sparsely at apex), 2.0-2.5 mm long. Style 3-4 mm long. Stigma 0.3-0.5 mm wide. Capsules strongly flattened, emarginate 4.5-6.0 × 2.5-3.0 mm, glabrous or sparsely hairy. Hairs glandular, if present. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending ½ way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, smooth-surfaced, ellipsoid or obovoid, pale brown, 0.5-0.8 × 0.4-0.6 mm

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Veronica densiflora*, *V. birleyi* and *V. spectabilis*, from which *V. trifida* differs by the glossy bright green, bronze-green or purple tinged rather than dull dark green or purplish leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Central Otago and Southland).

HABITAT

Alpine in seepages and flushes of meltwater below summer snowbanks, and along edges of water races, or in boggy ground.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica trifida Petrie

SYNONYMS

Parahebe trifida (Petrie) W.R.B.Oliv., *Hebejeebie trifida* (Petrie) Heads

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October - December

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

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'.

trifida: Divided into three

NVS CODE

VERTRI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, NR, NS, NStr, RR, Sp, St Help

Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available. The Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of Parahebe (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. New Zealand Journal of Botany 42: 181-232.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 August 2026