

Veronica zygantha

SYNONYMS

Parahebe laxa (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) W.R.B.Oliv., *Parahebe plano-petiolata* var. *laxa* (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) Ashwin, *Veronica laxa* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson nom. illegit.

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica zygantha Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 84$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland—Freeman Burn, Fowler Pass, Doon River).

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. Inhabiting scree, talus slopes and moraines often in fine sandy debris accumulated among boulders. Often on east-facing boulder scree and talus slopes below cliffs.



Mt Burns, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mount Burns. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub (softly woody) to 150 mm tall. **Stems** dark brown or grey. **Branches** decumbent to ascending. **Branchlets** brown to red-brown. **Vegetative internodes** 1–20 mm long. **Stems** uniformly eglandular-pubescent to glandular puberulent. **Leaves** erecto-patent to spreading. **Lamina** elliptic, orbicular or spatulate, 3–10 × 2–9 mm, adaxial surface glossy, bright green; abaxial surface dull, pale green. **Leaf hairs** absent. **Apex** rounded or truncate. **Base** cuneate. **Margin** glabrous, crenate or bluntly serrate; teeth or lobes in 0–5 pairs. **Petiole** 3–5 mm long. **Inflorescence** 1–(3)-flowered, 8–15 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels moderately dense. Eglandular hairs of inflorescence, white, antrorse (curved). **Peduncle** 1–12 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. **Rachis** 0–20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. **Bracts** alternate obtuse, glabrous, spatulate, margins entire. **Pedicels** 1–3 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. **Flowers** white at anthesis, throat white or yellow. **Nectar guides** absent. **Calyx** 4-lobed, 4–8 mm long, glabrous, lobes oblanceolate to obovate, subacute to obtuse, margins entire, glabrous. **Corolla** 5–6 mm diameter, tube 1.5–3.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm wide, glabrous. **Stamen filaments** white, 0.5–2.0 mm long. **Anthers** purple, 1.0–1.5 mm long. **Nectarial disc** glabrous. **Ovary** globose, obtuse, glabrous, 1–2 mm long. **Style** 0.5–3.0 mm long. **Capsules** strongly flattened, didymous, 4–5 × 3.5–5.0 mm, 1.5–2 mm thick, glabrous; septicidal split extending to base; loculicidal split extending ½-way to base. **Seeds** ellipsoid, pale brown, 1.0–1.3 × 0.6–0.7 mm.

FLOWERING

November–January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December–April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown in a rock garden or alpine house in a sunny position with a cool root run.

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'.

zygantha: From the Greek xugeo 'to be joined' and anthos 'flower'

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones PJ, Lloyd DG. 2003. A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42(2): 181–232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2004.9512899>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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