

# Veronica zygantha

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

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

## HABITAT

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

## GENUS

Veronica

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica zygantha* Garn.-Jones



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



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

## 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.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November–January

## FRUITING

December–April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

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

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

## 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'

## NVS CODE

VERZYG

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 84

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## 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>.

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026