

Wahlenbergia albomarginata

subsp. albomarginata

COMMON NAME

New Zealand harebell, harebell

SYNONYMS

Wahlenbergia brockiei J.A.Hay

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia albomarginata Hook. subsp. albomarginata

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

WAHASA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (in the east from Marlborough to Central Otago)

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine in tussock-grassland, on river terraces and amongst rocks.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with radical, rosulate tufts of leaves, sometimes alternate on elongated stems (shade form). Leaves concolorous or paler beneath, yellow-green, green to red-green, turning glaucous on drying; more or less petiolate, lamina 10 × 2 to 40 × 10 mm, linear to elliptic, gradually narrowed to petiole as long as the lamina or longer, margins entire or subentire, thickened, teeth if present, inconspicuous. Flowers insect-pollinated, narrowly campanulate-rotate, corolla pale flax blue to pale blue-violet, often with white zoning and deeper coloured veins, or all white, 12-17 mm diameter, 10-20 mm long, corolla tube 4 × 3 to 10 × 6 mm, lobes 6 × 3 to 12 × 5 mm; style equal in length to corolla tube, lobes 2 or 3. Calyx lobes less than ¼ corolla length; capsule domed cylindric, 6-8 × 4 mm. Seeds 0.5 mm long, ellipsoid, smooth, glossy brown when mature.

SIMILAR TAXA

Wahlenbergia albomarginata subsp. *albomarginata* is distinguished from subsp. *decora* J.A.Pettersen, subsp. *flexilis* (Petrie) J.A.Pettersen, subsp. *laxa* (G.Simpson) J.A.Pettersen and subsp. *olivina* J.A.Pettersen by its inland eastern South Island distribution (and virtual restriction within this area to low-rainfall regions), and by its entire, linear to elliptic leaves which are often white margined. All of the *W. albomarginata* subspecies recognised by Petterson (1997), except perhaps the ultramafic endemic subsp. *olivina*, require a thorough revision, as many of the characters used to separate them are overlapping.

FLOWERING

November – April

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from tip cuttings and the division of whole plants. Fresh seed germinates readily. Being insect-pollinated and having an indigenous pollinator, cultivated plants rarely set seed.

ETYMOLOGY

wahlenbergia: Named in honour of Wahlenberg, a Swedish botanist and author of *A Botany of Lapland*.

albomarginata: From the Latin *albus* 'white' and *marginatus* 'having a border or margin' meaning something with a white margin, often referring to leaves

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 June 2007. Description from Petterson (1997).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Petterson, J.A. 1997: Revision of the genus *Wahlenbergia* (Campanulaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(1): 9-54

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Wahlenbergia albomarginata* subsp. *albomarginata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-albomarginata-subsp-albomarginata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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