

# 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

2012 | Not Threatened

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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.

### FEATURES

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 cylindrical, 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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