

Wahlenbergia albomarginata subsp. olivina

COMMON NAMES

Red Hills harebell, Mt Dun harebell

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with radical, rosulate tufts of leaves, sometimes alternate on elongated stems (shade form). Leaves dark olive green to red-green above, usually purple beneath, more or less petiolate, entire inconspicuously dentate, lamina 10 × 2 to 40 × 10 mm, linear to elliptic or ovate to obovate, gradually narrowed to petiole as long as the lamina or longer, margins cartilaginous, upper surface bearing sparse to numerous white, stiff bristly hairs. 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, 10-30 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

Similar to subsp. *albomarginata*, but differing by its restriction of ultramafic habitats, dark olive green to red-green leaves bearing on the upper surface numerous to sparse white, stiff bristly hairs; often purple leaf undersides; and by the prominent cartilaginous margins.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (serpentine areas from Dun Mountain to the Red Hills, Richmond Range)

HABITAT

Montane. Confined to serpentinite open rock, scree, bare soils and within open shrubland.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, range restricted species abundant throughout its known habitats. There are no obvious threats.

GENUS

Wahlenbergia

FAMILY

Campanulaceae



Red Hills, Richmond Ranges. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Red Hills, Richmond Ranges. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 08/01/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia albomarginata subsp. olivina J.A.Petterson

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1997)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – April

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

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 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 June 2007). Description adapted from Petterson (1997).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-albomarginata-subsp-olivina/>

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