

Wahlenbergia cartilaginea

COMMON NAME

scree harebell

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia cartilaginea Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

WAHCAR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 36$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Inland Kaikoura and Amuri Ranges from Mt Tapuaenuku to Mt Terako and Mt Percival, and drainage areas of upper Wairau, Waiau, Clarence, and Awatere Rivers)

HABITAT

Mostly subalpine to alpine (rarely within montane areas on shingle beds and slips along riversides). Endemic to deep fine greywacke screes and semi-consolidated debris slopes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A perennial deep-rooting rhizomatous scree plant with distant rosettes of very thick, glaucous, (sometimes yellowish) sessile leaves, glabrous or pubescent. Leaves 8×5 – 25×15 mm, spatulate, obtuse, narrowed to a thick flat petiole; margins entire, thickened, cartilaginous. Scapes 20–30 mm long, stout, glaucous, with 1–3 small bracts, usually simple and stiff. Flower insect-pollinated, c.12 mm long, 8–12 mm diameter, lilac or white, scented. Corolla broadly funnel-shaped, 5-partite, tube c.5 × 6 mm, lobes c. 7 × 5 mm, enclosed within the large calyx lobes which are thick and coriaceous, glabrous, linear-oblong, obtuse, 6 × 2 to 10 × 3 mm. Capsule glabrous, often glaucous, globose to broadly turbinate, c.8 × 8 to 10 × 10 mm. Seeds larger than in other species, 1 mm long, ellipsoid, glossy brown when mature.



Close up, Island Saddle (Jan). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Island Saddle. Photographer: Jane Gosden, Date taken: 28/01/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC-SA.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily separated from other *Wahlenbergia* Roth by its restriction to mobile scree habitats; its thick greyish or yellowish leaves borne in widely spaced, separate rosettes; short thick flower stems, calyx lobes about as long as the corolla, and by its fragrant insect-pollinated flowers.

FLOWERING

December - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

January - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in a rockery or an alpine house but generally regarded as difficult. Best from fresh seed.

THREATS

A naturally uncommon, narrow range endemic that is sparsely distributed over a wide area of scree in eastern Marlborough. Although not considered threatened, some populations suffer from browsing by sheep, goats, rabbits, hares, and other livestock.

ETYMOLOGY

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

cartilaginea: Like cartilage

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange 12 June 2007. Description adapted 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: 9-54.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-cartilaginea/>