

Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. drucei

COMMON NAME

mountain harebell, Egmont harebell

SYNONYMS

Wahlenbergia pygmaea Colenso subsp. pygmaea

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. drucei J.A.Petterson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Mount Egmont, Taranaki

HABITAT

Montane to alpine. Inhabiting semi-consolidated volcanic grit, where it is usually a pioneer at the foot of a scree or similar bare eroded site. Also colonising white lichen beds (*Stereocaulon ramulosum*) at lower elevations on consolidated gravel along the Stony River

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rhizomatous herb with rosulate tufts of leaves at ground level. Leaves bright green, glossy, glabrous or with a few scattered hairs, petiolate; lamina orbicular-spathulate, 10 × 3 to 20 × 5 mm. Leaf margin crenate-serrate, often undulate, teeth conspicuous. Flowers usually insect-pollinated, some forms self-fertile; erect or nodding on short upright scapes, 40-100 mm tall, which may be naked or 1-2-bracted. Corolla pale blue with creamy-white central band in each petal; up to 30 mm diameter, up to 18 mm long, broadly campanulate with tube as broad as or broader than long, lobes c.9 × 7 mm, spreading, broadly elliptic-lanceolate, acute. Calyx lobes c.3.0 × 1.5 mm, glabrous, narrow-triangular. Capsule c.10 × 6 mm, glabrous, domed cylindrical to plump barrel-shaped. Seeds ellipsoid, glossy brown.



SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from subsp. *pygmaea* by its restriction of Mt Taranaki; by its spatulate leaves which are conspicuously toothed along the margins; and by the flowers which are pale blue with a creamy-white central band in each petal.

FLOWERING

November January

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

December - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from tip cuttings and the division of whole plants. Fresh seed germinates readily.

THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon range-restricted endemic that is abundant within the montane to alpine areas of Mt Taranaki. There are no known threats.

ETYMOLOGY

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

pygmaea: Tiny

drucei: Named after Anthony (Tony) Peter Druce, one of New Zealand's most respected field botanist (1920-1999).

NEW ZEALAND BOTANICAL HISTORY

For a brief biography for this plant is named, see this article in [Te Ara - The Encyclopedia of New Zealand](#).

Hundreds of Tony's famed plant lists can be found [here](#) and back-issues of regional Botanical Society Journals which he contributed can be accessed [here](#).

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-pygmaea-subsp-drucei/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-pygmaea-subsp-drucei/>