

Wahlenbergia ramosa

COMMON NAME

coastal harebell

SYNONYMS

Wahlenbergia colensoi N.E.Br. pro. parte., *Wahlenbergia gracilis* sensu Allan nom. inv.,

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia ramosa G.Simpson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

WAHRAM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 72$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Recognised by the preference for coastal habitats; alternate pale green leaves; pale-lilac flowers at anthesis, which open to off-white, or completely white flowers; rotate corolla with shallow saucer-shaped tube, and with the broadly ovate lobes overlapping in the open flower resulting in a compact appearance.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands from East Cape and Taranaki south to the Marlborough Sounds. Most common on the shores of Cook Strait.

HABITAT

Mostly coastal (rarely inland). On rocks, cliffs, grassy places and in open scrub.



Close up of flower. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 11/03/2015, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Side view of calyx detail. Sinclair Head - Wellington. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 29/10/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Radicate, perennial herb. **Stems** 100–500 mm long, 1–2 mm thick, decumbent or ascending or stiffly erect. **Mature leaves and bracts** pale-green, alternate, sessile, variable, usually obovate-spathulate to oblanceolate on lower stem, grading to linear-lanceolate in upper stem, 8 × 2 to 30 × 10 mm; margins flat and distantly denticulate to strongly undulate, usually with scattered hairs on margins and lamina. **Callus teeth** 4–5 on each margin. **Pedicels** slender, 30–100 mm long. **Flowers** glabrous, 3–5-lobed, pastel lilac at anthesis, fading to off-white or pure white in different populations, 5–20 mm diameter, 4–9 mm long. **Corolla** rotate with shallow saucer-shaped tube, 1 × 3–4 mm; lobes spreading, 5 × 4 to 8 × 5 mm, broadly ovate, touching or overlapping in open flower. **Style** thickened at top, white. **Calyx** lobes glabrous, 1.5 × 1.0 to 3.0 × 1.5 mm, triangular; capsule glabrous 5–7 × 4 mm, ellipsoid to obconic, with protruding apical valves. **Bud** at anther dehiscence short and rounded. Self-fertile. **Seeds** 0.5 mm long.

FLOWERING

November–April

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

December–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Seeds, tip cuttings, rootstock transplants. Easily grown in a well drained, sunny situation. Often freely naturalises in gardens and can become weedy.

ETYMOLOGY

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

ramosa: Branched

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 JA. 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-ramosa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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