

# Wahlenbergia rupestris

## COMMON NAME

white harebell

## SYNONYMS

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

## FAMILY

Campanulaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Wahlenbergia rupestris* G.Simpson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

WAHRUP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Radicant, perennial herb. Stems slender, erect, 100–500 mm tall, branching from the base, terete. Leaves alternate, usually linear-oblong to linear\*, 15–20 mm long, subentire, with scattered hairs on margins and lamina. Flowers pure white, 9–25 mm diameter, corolla almost tubeless, with long lobes and shallow, saucer-shaped tube 2 × 5 mm. Capsule glabrous, 7 × 3 to 10 × 4 mm, ellipsoid to obconic. \**W. colensoi* was named for forms with spatulate basal leaves rather than linear; as currently described, *W. rupestris* includes plants once known as *W. colensoi*.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands (mainly inland sites from Whanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu, and Wairarapa to Central Otago, excluding Canterbury Plains but including Banks Peninsula and Otago Peninsula)



Spatulate leaves (as in "*W. colensoi*"); open forest on limestone, near Whanganui. Photographer: Colin Ogle



In dry, open forest on limestone, near Whanganui. Photographer: Colin Ogle

## HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually on rocks, cliffs, river gorges and on sparsely vegetated terraces. Only coastal in southern part of range.

## FEATURES

Radicant, perennial herb. Stems slender, erect, 100-500 mm tall, branching from the base, terete. Leaves alternate, often dark green, usually linear-oblongate to linear\*, 15-20 mm long, subentire, with scattered hairs on margins and lamina. Callus teeth 4-5 on each margin. Bracts linear, 4-20 × 2 mm. Flowers self-compatible, pure white, 9-25 mm diameter, 6-13 mm long, on slender pedicels 50-100 mm long. Corolla rotate, almost tubeless, with long lobes and shallow, saucer-shaped tube 2 × 5 mm. Corolla lobes 8 × 5 mm to 11 × 6 mm, strongly constricted below stigma lobes, white. Calyx glabrous, lobes 2.0 × 0.7 mm to 3.0 × 1.0 mm, narrow-triangular, erect. Capsule glabrous, 7 × 3 to 10 × 4 mm, ellipsoid to obconic. Bud at anther dehiscence slender, pointed. Seeds 0.5 mm long. \**W. colensoi* was named for forms with spatulate basal leaves rather than linear; as currently described, *W. rupestris* includes plants once known as *W. colensoi*.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the dark green to reddish-green, often narrow, alternate leaves; pure white long-petalled rotate flowers, with very shallow saucer-shaped tube and elliptic corolla lobes which are separate to base (not overlapping), resulting in a stark-like appearance when viewed from above.

## FLOWERING

November - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

December to February

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Does best in a sunny situation in well drained soil. In suitable conditions it freely naturalises and can even become weedy.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**rupestris**: From the Latin *rupes* 'rock, cliff', meaning growing in rocky places

## 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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Wahlenbergia rupestris* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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