

# Veronica arganthera

## SYNONYMS

*Hebe arganthera* Garn.-Jones, Bayly, W.G.Lee et Rance

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica arganthera* (Garn.-Jones, Bayly, W.G.Lee et Rance) Garn.-Jones

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

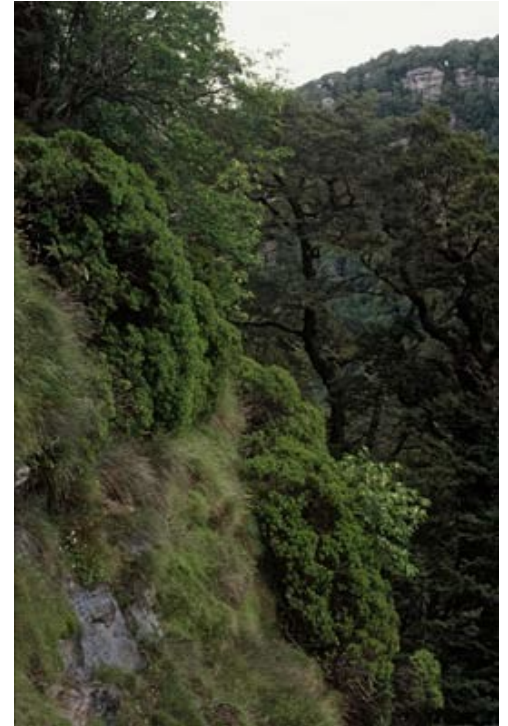
Bushy shrub bearing narrow pairs of leaves with a finely hairy margin (lens needed) inhabiting limestone bluffs in Fiordland. Leaves 15–30 mm long by 6–11 mm wide. Leaf bud with small narrow gap. Flowers white, in short spike to 5 cm long. Anthers pale.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (eastern areas of Fiordland National Park).

## HABITAT

A subalpine scrub developed on mostly south facing limestone bluffs, outcrops and cliff faces, in and around sink holes and on limestone talus and colluvium, usually at or near the tree limit.



Limestone Bluffs in Takahe Valley.  
Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd, Licence: All rights reserved.



Fruits and foliage. Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd,  
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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub, often rounded or spreading, to 0.5 m tall. **Branches** ascending to erect; old stems brown; youngest branchlets green; internodes 2–8 mm long, bifariously eglandular-pubescent. **Leaf bud** about as long as mature leaves, sinus narrow, acute. **Leaves:** lamina oblong to elliptic, coriaceous or subcoriaceous, m-shaped in transverse section, 12–38 × 5–11 mm; apex subacute and mucronate; base cuneate; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; secondary veins not evident; margin entire, translucent, bevelled or rounded, minutely papillate or denticulate; upper surface green or yellowish green, dull, hairy along midrib; lower surface pale green, dull, glabrous. **Petiole** 3–4 mm long, uniformly eglandular-pubescent. **Inflorescences** with 15–25 flowers, lateral, racemose, simple or with 1–2 branches at base, 20–50 mm long, about = or > subtending leaves, flowers opening in acropetal sequence, usually all developing to maturity; peduncle 8–10 mm long, eglandular-pubescent; rachis 150 mm long, eglandular pubescent; bracts opposite and decussate at least below, sometimes becoming alternate above, subacute to acute, eglandular-ciliolate, linear to lanceolate; pedicels < bracts, eglandular-pubescent, erecto-patent at flowering and fruiting, 0.5–5.0 mm long. **Flowers** hermaphrodite. **Calyx** terete, 4-lobed, equally divided, 2.5–3.5 mm long; lobes all similar, lanceolate to elliptic, obtuse, eglandular-ciliolate; margins scarious. **Corolla** white; tube glabrous, 1–2 mm long, c. 1 mm wide, cylindric, > calyx; lobes glabrous, > tube; posterior lobe circular to elliptic, obtuse, erecto-patent; lateral lobes elliptic or ovate, obtuse, erecto-patent, cuneate at base; anterior lobe ovate, obtuse, patent to recurved, not enfolding style; corolla throat white. **Stamens:** filaments white, 4–6 mm long; anthers white, c 1.5 mm long. **Nectarial disc** glabrous. **Ovary** ovoid, glabrous, 1.7–2.0 mm long, bilocular; style 5–7 mm long, glabrous, white; stigma capitate. **Capsules** acute, dark brown, 3–4 × 2.5–3.5 mm, glabrous; septicial split extending to base, loculicidal split extending  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$ -way to base; capsule valves with pronounced midrib. **Seeds** 0.6–1.0 × 0.5–0.8 mm, straw yellow to pale brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Veronica arganthera* resembles *V. cockayneana* from which it differs by its larger, dull green, concolorous leaves, short stem pubescence, very short eglandular hairs on leaf margins (glabrous or glandular-hairy in *V. cockayneana*), white anthers, and shorter capsules. *Veronica arganthera* is also similar to *V. subalpina*. However, *Veronica subalpina* has glossy leaves, lacks a sinus and has strictly simple (unbranched) inflorescence, spiralled flowers, magenta anthers, and larger seeds.

## FLOWERING

December–May

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

January–August

## LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from cuttings. However, very slow growing and will not flower in lowland humid climates, where it prone to hebe leaf spot (*Septoria exotica*). Does best in a cool, semi-shaded, free draining situation.

## THREATS

A narrow range limestone endemic that is known from very few sites and adult plants. It is vulnerable at many sites to deer browsing. Seedlings though common rarely reach maturity because of these browsing animals.

## ETYMOLOGY

**veronica:** Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin vera 'truth' and iconica 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commerically Available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (18 August 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones et al. (2000)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones PJ, Bayly MJ, Lee WG, Rance BD. 2000. *Hebe arganthera* (Scrophulariaceae), a new species from calcareous outcrops in Fiordland, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 38(3): 379–388.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2000.9512690>.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Veronica arganthera* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-arganthera/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-arganthera/>