

Veronica calcicola

COMMON NAMES

marble hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing bushy shrub bearing pairs of narrow dark green leaves inhabiting marble rocks in Northwest Nelson. Leaves to 45mm long by 9mm wide, margin with very small hairs (lens needed). Leaf bud without gap at base. Flowers white in a spike to 9cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub, to c.1.4 m tall. Branches erect; old stems mottled grey, or brown; youngest branchlets brown, or red-brown, or green; internodes 1.5-15 mm long; stem pubescence bifarious or uniform. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves erecto-patent to patent or recurved; lamina oblong-elliptic (mostly) or lanceolate 3.5-9 mm wide; apex subacute or obtuse; base cuneate; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; margin not thickened, oblanceolate, 13-45 mm long, 3.5-9.0 mm wide; apex subacute or obtuse; base cuneate; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; margin not thickened, light green or yellowish green, bevelled, glabrous or ciliolate (especially toward apex), entire; upper surface dark green, glossy; lower surface green, dull, glabrous or sometimes minutely covered with glandular hairs). Inflorescences with 25-45 flowers, lateral, racemose and unbranched, 25-85 mm long, longer than subtending leaves, flowers usually opening in acropetal sequence, usually with all flowers developing to maturity; peduncle 4-20 mm long, pubescent with mixed long eglandular/short glandular hairs; rachis 22-56 mm long, pubescent with mixed eglandular/glandular hairs; bracts alternate, obtuse to acute, ciliate with both glandular and eglandular hairs, deltoid or ovate; pedicels varying from longer than bracts to shorter than pubescent mixed eglandular/glandular hairs, erecto-patent at anthesis, erecto-patent or patent at fruiting, 0.5-1.0 mm long. Flowers hermaphrodite. Calyx terete, c.1.5-2.5 mm long, mostly 4-lobed; lobes oblong or lanceolate, obtuse or more rarely subacute, with mixed glandular/eglandular cilia. Corolla white; tube hairy inside, c.0.7-1.2 mm long, shortly funnelform, shorter than calyx; lobes longer than corolla tube, papillate inside sometimes basally hairy (or hairs more widespread) on inner surface, margins of corolla lobes glabrous; posterior lobe broadly elliptic or ovate or obovate, obtuse, erect to slightly recurved, with margin and apex turned upwards; lateral lobes elliptic, obtuse, suberect or patent, with margin and apex turned upwards; anterior lobe elliptic, oblong-elliptic, obtuse, suberect, patent or recurved, with margin and apex turned upwards, not enfolding style; corolla throat white. Stamen filaments white, 3-5 mm long; anthers obtuse, magenta, 1-2 mm long. Ovary ovoid, mostly eglandular hairy, c.0.8-1.1 mm long, 2-locular; style 3.5-5.0 mm long, glabrous, white; stigma yellow. Capsules 2.0-3.5 × 2.5-3.0 mm thick, septicial split extending to base, loculicidal split extending 1/3-3/4-way to base.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most closely allied to *Veronica rakaiensis* from which it differs by its geographic isolation,; by the mature leaves mostly > 20 mm long, oblong-elliptic; and by the glabrous margins of corolla lobes

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (north-west Nelson (Peel, Lockett, Douglas, and Arthur ranges))

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine. Confined to limestone and marble outcrops, talus and bluffs where it grows in low scrub of which it is often the dominant species.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR



THREATS

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted and sparsely distributed endemic of calcareous substrates, All known populations are within a National Park and believed to be secure.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica callicola (Bayly et Garn.-Jones) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe callicola Bayly et Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

November - March

FRUITING

December - May

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from semi-hardwood cuttings and fresh seed. An attractive low bushy plant that responds well to regularly pruning and trimming to keep in shape. It does well in a sunny or semi-shaded site in most soils.

OTHER INFORMATION

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'.

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M.J.; Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Mitchell, K.A.; Markham, K.R. 2001: Description and flavonoid chemistry of *Hebe callicola* (Scrophulariaceae), a new species from north-west Nelson, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39: 55-67

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange. adapted from Bayly et al. (2001).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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