

# Veronica evenosa

## COMMON NAME

hebe

## SYNONYMS

*Hebe evenosa* (Petrie) Cockayne et Allan

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica evenosa* Petrie

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

HEBEVE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 120

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Rounded much-branched bushy shrub bearing pairs of shiny green oval leaves and with round-tipped leaf buds inhabiting Tararua mountains. Leaves 12-28mm long by 4-9mm wide, margin with very small hairs (lens needed). Leaf bud without gap at base. Flower spike to 5cm long.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island - Tararua Ranges, in the areas around Mitre, Mt Holdsworth, Field Hut, Dennan and Mt Hector.

## HABITAT

Subalpine shrubland, often close to the tree-line.



Mt Holdsworth (December). Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mt Holdsworth, October. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub (usually with a rounded habit) to 2 m tall. Branches erect, old stems grey to brown; branchlets green, puberulent to pubescent, hairs bifarious to uniform (hairs on decurrencies, when present, often somewhat shorter); internodes 2-9 mm; leaf decurrencies evident. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves usually erecto-patent to patent or recurved (with age); lamina obovate or oblanceolate to elliptic, concave, 12-28 x 4-9 mm; apex obtuse (usually) or subacute (rarely) or shortly apiculate; margin ciliolate; upper surface dark green, ± glossy, glabrous or hairy along midrib; lower surface dull or glossy. Inflorescences with 15-40 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 1.4-5 cm; peduncle 0.5-1.1 cm; rachis 0.8-4 cm. Bracts alternate, narrowly deltoid or lanceolate or elliptic, subacute or acute. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels longer than or equal to bracts, 0.5-3.3 mm. Calyx 2-2.5 mm, 4-5-lobed (5th lobe small, posterior); lobes ovate or elliptic, obtuse (usually) or subacute. Corolla tube hairy inside; tube of female flowers approximately equalling calyx; tube of female flowers 1.5-2 mm, shorter than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, rhomboid or ovate to elliptic, obtuse, suberect to patent (usually) or recurved, longer than corolla tube, sometimes with a few hairs toward base on inner surface. Stamen filaments 2.5-5 mm; anthers mauve or pink, approximately 0.9-1.2 mm. Ovary approximately 0.9-1.1 mm; ovules 10-12 per locule; style 3-7.2 mm. Capsules obtuse, approximately 3-3.7 x 3-4 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/3-3/4-way to base. Seeds flattened (sometimes strongly), broad ellipsoid to discoid, weakly winged, ± smooth, brown, 1.2-1.5 x 1.1-1.3 mm, MR 0.2-0.3 mm.

## FLOWERING

January - February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

February - April (June)

## LIFE CYCLE

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

## 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'.

**evenosa:** From the Latin e- 'without' and venosus 'veins', meaning without conspicuous veins.

## TAXONOMIC INFORMATION

Differs from *Veronica truncatula*, the other small-leaved subalpine member of "Occlusae" from NI, in: habit, with branches highly branched toward the apex, producing a dense canopy (Fig. 80A); usually smaller, oblanceolate to elliptic (rather than lanceolate to elliptic) leaves; chromosome number; and flavonoid profile. It has not been determined whether differences in anther colour are consistent. The species resembles, and is possibly closely related to, *Veronica topiaria*, from which it differs most obviously by its non-glaucous leaves. A few collections - for example, by Petrie and Aston and by Sneddon, from the Tararua Range - have larger leaves than generally seen in *Veronica evenosa*. These specimens could be hybrids with *Veronica stricta*; this hybrid combination was reported for the area by Druce (1968). However, the extent of variation in leaf size in *Veronica evenosa* has not been thoroughly assessed, since many herbarium specimens come from the same small populations. The locality, "base of Mt Ruapehu", is not likely to be correct. There are no other records from this well-collected area, and it is not represented on the distribution map.

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

- Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006 An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 152
- Druce, A. P. (1968). Vascular plants of Mt Holdsworth, Tararua Range (including Pig Flat) 2500-4835 ft. Unpublished checklist held at Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand.
- Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics 11: 285-309

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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### **MORE INFORMATION**

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