

Veronica notialis

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing shrub with erect twigs bearing pairs of small green thick fleshy leaves inhabiting Fiordland mountains. Leaves 3-5 mm long, about as wide as long, tapering to tip and leaf stalk, margin hairy. Flowers white, in a group of 2-4 at tip of twigs.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spreading low shrub to 0.2 m tall. Branches decumbent to erect, old stems brown to grey; branchlets green or red-brown or brown, pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1-2 (-3) mm; leaf decurrencies evident and extended for length of internode; leaves either abscising above nodes or not readily abscising. Leaf bud tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves; sinus broad and acute. Leaves very shortly connate, erecto-patent; lamina ovate to circular or deltoid (leaves spatulate when shape of petiole is considered), rigid, flat to concave, (2-) 3-5 (-6) x (2-) 3-4 (-6) mm; apex subacute to obtuse or subapiculate; midrib slightly thickened below (forming keel), but not strongly evident in fresh leaves; margin minutely papillate and ciliate (often with tangled, branching hairs); upper surface dark green to yellowish-green, glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface dark green to yellowish-green, glossy; petiole 1-1.5 (-2) mm. Juvenile and reversion leaves entire, ciliate. Inflorescences with 2 (-4) flowers, lateral, unbranched, 0.6-1.35 cm, longer than subtending leaves (if including the length of flowers); peduncle 0-0.2 cm; rachis 0-0.2 cm. Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, lanceolate to deltoid, subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels always shorter than bracts, approximately 1 mm, glabrous or hairy. Calyx 4-6 mm; lobes oblanceolate, acute, minutely eglandular ciliate (with branching hairs). Corolla tube glabrous, approximately 3 x 1 mm, slightly contracted at mouth, equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, circular or elliptic (anterior only), obtuse, suberect to recurved, equalling corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect, 2 mm; anthers pink to magenta or mauve. 1.5-2 mm. Ovary globose to ellipsoid, approximately 1 mm; ovules 12-14 per locule: style 1.8-3 mm. Capsules angustiseptate, didymous, 4.5-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, approximately 4 mm thick, septical split extending $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base, loculicidal split extending to base. Seeds weakly flattened, ellipsoid, pale brown, 1-1.5 x 0.8-1.2 mm.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island - Mountains of Fiordland, from Caswell Sound in the northwest to near Lake Hauroko in the southeast.

HABITAT

Alpine grassland or low shrubland.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica notialis Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe pauciflora G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson, *Leonohebe pauciflora* (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) Heads



TAXONOMIC NOTES

A distinctive species, recognised by having; entire, petiolate leaves with a fringe or fine, white, tangled and sometimes branched hairs on the margins; lateral inflorescences; large flowers with broad corolla lobes; and angustiseptate capsules. Its relationship to other members of *Veronica* is not clear. It resembles species of “Buxifoliatae” (with which it was included by Moore, in Allan 1961) and “Connatae” in vegetative characters but differs in capsule and flower shape (and in these, presumably plesiomorphic, features resemble some members of *Veronica* sp. formally known as *Parahebe*).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

December-March

FRUITING

January-March

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

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’.

NVS CODE

VERNOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H. H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1*. Wellington: Government Printer.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 288.

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

ATTRIBUTION

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

MORE INFORMATION

PDF DATE

27 August 2025