

Veronica rigidula var. sulcata

COMMON NAMES

hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low bushy shrub bearing pairs of oval leaves inhabiting ultramafic rocks in the Marlborough Sounds. Leaves variable, to 28.2mm long, longer than wide, more or less u-shaped in cross section. Leaf bud with narrow gap at base. Flowers white, on short stalks, in spikes or sprays to 3.2cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low growing, openly branched, bushy shrub 0.3-0.6 m tall. Branches erect, old stems brown; branchlets green, pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1.0-5.5 mm. Leaf bud distinct, weakly tetragonous in cross-section; sinus narrow and acute. Leaves erect to patent; elliptic or broadly elliptic, coriaceous, sulcate (m-shaped in cross-section), 9.4-28.2 × 3.2-8.7 mm, ratio of leaf length to width 2.5-3.5; apex acute or subacute; margin minutely papillate; upper surface green, dull or slightly glossy, glabrous or minutely hairy along midrib (especially toward base); lower surface glaucous or glaucescent; petiole 2.0-3.2 mm long, glabrous or minutely hairy along margins (especially on youngest leaves) and /or rarely hairy above. Inflorescences with 10-40 flowers, lateral, usually tripartite or rarely with more than 3 branches or unbranched, 14-32 mm long, > or < subtending leaves; peduncle 3-12 mm; rachis 7-28 mm. Bracts opposite and decussate, or opposite and decussate below and becoming alternate above, ovate or deltoid, obtuse or subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels < bracts, 0.3-2.0 mm long. Calyx 1.5-2.5 mm; lobes elliptic, oblong or ovate, obtuse or subacute, with mixed glandular/eglandular cilia or wholly eglandular. Corolla tube glabrous 2.5-4.0 × 1.7 mm, cylindrical, > calyx; lobes white or pale mauve at anthesis, elliptic, ovate or oblong, obtuse rarely emarginate, suberect to recurved, < corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3-4 mm long; anthers buff or faintly tinged pink, 1.7-2.0 mm. Ovary 0.9-1.0 mm; style 5-7 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.4-4.0 × 1.8-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending ¼-½ way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid, discoid or irregular, brown to pale brown, 0.8-1.6 × 0.7-1.1 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closely related to *Veronica rigidula* var. *rigidula* from which it differs by its weakly tetragonous leaf bud (in cross section); elliptic to broadly elliptic leaves which are distinctly m-shaped in cross-section; and also by the more distinctly pedicellate flowers.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (mainly D'Urville Island but also on Editor Hill and Lookout Peak in the Marlborough Sounds)

HABITAT

A plant of montane habitats where it grows in low scrub and other sparsely vegetated sites on rubble slopes, rock outcrops and in and around boulders along the melange of the mineralised zone leading from D'Urville Island south through the Marlborough Sounds to Mt Dun



Near Attempt Hill (type specimen), D'Urville Island. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Date taken: 01/01/2001, Licence: All rights reserved.

THREATS

A range-restricted endemic which is known from only three main populations. At none of these it is very common. There are no obvious threats but the population of *V. rigidula* var. *sulcata* is so small that there would be a high risk of extinction if it experienced any harmful effects.

GENUS

Veronica

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica rigidula var. *sulcata* (Bayly et Kellow) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe rigidula var. *sulcata* Bayly et Kellow

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November – February

FRUITING

December – October

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings. Can be rather slow growing. An attractive shrub though rarely flowers as heavily as *Veronica rigidula* var. *rigidula*.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

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'.

rigidula: Engraved

sulcata: From the Latin *sulcus* 'furrow', meaning grooved

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RR

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: CD, RR

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: RR, St

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M.; Kellow, A. 2006: An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press, Wellington.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (1 August 2006). Description modified from: Bayley and Kellow (2006)

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-rigidula-var-sulcata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-rigidula-var-sulcata/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026