

# Gratiola pubescens

## COMMON NAMES

Hairy Brooklime

## BIOSTATUS

Native

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect to procumbent glandular sticky perennial herb 25-200 mm tall, all parts except flowers and older growth conspicuously though finely glandular pubescent. Sessile glands globular. Sometimes with larger scattered, eglandular hairs. Branches dark green to purple-green, non-maculate, initially decumbent, rooting at nodes soon ascending to erect. Leaves 7-26 x 2-6 mm, yellow-green to dark green with spots or stitch marks, narrow-elliptic to lanceolate, base cuneate or amplexicaul, margins with 1-3 pairs of broadly acute teeth. Flowers solitary in bract axils; pedicels 1-3 mm long; bracteoles 3-4.5 mm; sepals 3-6 mm long; corolla 10-12 mm long, pink, pink-purple or white (pink-purple in New Zealand specimen), with yellow tube and pale inner face of limb, hirsute inside on the upper side; staminodes 2. Capsule 2.5-5 mm, broadly ovoid; style remnant 2 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Gratiola sexdentata* from which it differs by its distinctly pubescent, unspotted/blemished stems and leaves and (in New Zealand specimens) pinkish-purple flowers. On occasion *Gratiola sexdentata* can be moderately hairy but it can still be separated from *G. pubescens* by its characteristically spotted/blemished leaves and stems and consistently white flowers.

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the North Island, at Parkinsons Lake on the southern side of the Awhitu Peninsula. Common in Australia

## HABITAT

In New Zealand this species was collected once from the margin of a small dune lake where it grew in association with *Gratiola sexdentata* R.Cunn. ex A.Cunn. in a low marginal turf community.

## THREATS

Collected once in 1999 and not seen again at that site. However, it is easily overlooked as a very hairy form of *Gratiola sexdentata* so it may be more widespread than current evidence suggests.

## GENUS

*Gratiola*

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Gratiola pubescens* R.Br.

## SYNONYMS

None



## TAXONOMIC NOTES

In New Zealand known from a single gathering made from Parkinsons Lake made in January 1999 (AK 247105, P. J. de Lange 3896).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

October - April

## FRUITING

October - July

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by water and possibly wind and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. However, it is probably easily grown if treated in the same manner as *Gratiola sexdentata* and *C. pedunculata* R.Br.

## ETYMOLOGY

**gratiola**: Little beauty

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regional Non-Resident – Regional Vagrant | Qualifiers: OL, SO Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 4 May 2006. Description by P.J. de Lange.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gratiola-pubescens/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026