

Veronica hulkeana subsp. evestita

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy small shrub bearing fleshy pairs of red edged glossy oval toothed leaves inhabiting limestone areas near Kaikoura. Twigs hairless (except occasionally near tip). Leaves 30-50mm long by 15-20mm wide on a 10-20mm long stalk that widens towards leaf. Flowers pinkish, in clusters to 50cm long.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stems usually glabrous throughout, rarely sparsely puberulent when young, hairs glandular and eglandular; eglandular stem hairs recurved. Leaves erecto-patent; lamina lanceolate, rhomboid, or rarely elliptic, (15-)30-50(-60) x (8-)15-20(-25) mm; apex acute, apiculate, or rarely obtuse; marginal teeth in 5-10(-15) pairs; adaxial surface glabrous or with minute twin-headed glandular hairs on midrib; abaxial surface glabrous. Petiole (8-)10-20(-25) mm long. Rachis glabrous basally, individual rachises of racemes glandular puberulent or sparsely puberulent. Pedicels glabrous or glandular-puberulent, 0-1 mm long. Calyx 2-3 mm long; lobes lanceolate, ovate, or deltoid, acuminate or acute, glandular-ciliolate or with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia. Corolla tube cylindrical to narrowly funnelform; lobes glabrous. Stamen filaments inserted about middle of corolla tube, approximately 1 mm long. Nectarial disk ciliolate or glabrous. Ovary glabrous or eglandular or glandular hairy (hairs short), 0.7-1.0 x 0.6-0.9 mm, 0.5-0.7 mm thick. Capsule 3.5-4.5 mm long, 2.0-2.5(-3.0) mm thick, usually glabrous, sometimes with unicellular eglandular or glandular hairs. Loculicidal split of capsule extending 1/3-way to base

SIMILAR TAXA

The absence of a dense puberulent covering, particularly in the distal parts of the inflorescence, distinguishes *Veronica hulkeana* subsp. *evestita* from *Veronica hulkeana* subsp. *hulkeana*. When hairs are present on rachises, they are sparse and often glandular. The base of the calyx is glabrous or has a few sparse hairs, which may be glandular. The calyx lobes are ovate to lanceolate with acute to acuminate apices; their marginal cilia are more sparse and include some glandular hairs. The leaves tend to be more ovate to lanceolate than in *Veronica hulkeana* subsp. *hulkeana*, and the inflorescence tends to be more graceful, with flowers more distantly spaced.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island – Marlborough

HABITAT

Rocky gorges, cliffs, and outcrops, on limestone.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae



Sawcut Gorge. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

AUTHORITY

Veronica hulkeana subsp. *evestita* (Garn.-Jones) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Heliohebe hulkeana subsp. *evestita* Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

November

FRUITING

January-February (March)

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 = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 31: 323-339.

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Albach, D.; Briggs, B.G. 2007: Botanical names in Southern Hemisphere *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae): sect. *Detzneria*, ect. *Hebe*, and sect. *Labiatooides*. *Taxon* 56: 571-582

ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 31: 331. © The Royal Society of New Zealand, reproduced by permission of Taylor & Francis Ltd, www.tandfonline.com on behalf of The Royal Society of New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-hulkeana-subsp-evestita/>

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