

Veronica pentasepala

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

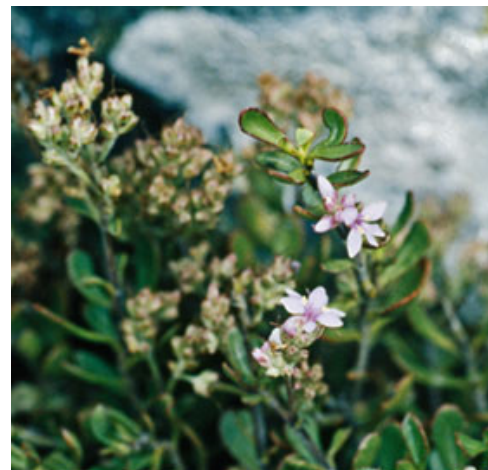
Small shrub to 30 cm tall bearing pairs of glossy narrow fleshy red-edged leaves inhabiting rocky sites in inland Marlborough valleys. Leaves 10–30mm long by 4–8mm wide, on a short stalk. Flowers pinkish, in clusters to 7cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub or shrub, 0.1–0.3(–0.45) m tall. Branches usually erect, sometimes ascending; branchlets red-brown, grey-brown with age; vegetative internodes (2–)4–10(–20) mm long; stem pubescence uniform, hairs eglandular, or rarely glandular hairs also present between leaf bases at nodes in cultivated plants only. Leaves erecto-patent to spreading; lamina oblanceolate or narrowly elliptic, coriaceous to fleshy, weakly folded, (7–)10–30 x (3–)4–8 mm; apex usually subacute, acute, or obtuse; base cuneate; margin red, rounded, smooth, serrate or rarely entire; adaxial surface glabrous, green to bronze green, glossy, with dense stomata; abaxial surface glabrous (or eglandular-hairy on midrib in occasional cultivated plants), green to pale green, dull, with dense stomata; midrib not thickened, depressed to grooved above. Petiole narrowly winged, 2–5(–8) mm long. Inflorescence with 20–200 flowers, (1–)2–7 cm long. Peduncle 0.5–1.0(–1.5) cm long; rachis 1–3(–5) cm long, pubescent; bracts subopposite to alternate, or opposite and decussate below, becoming alternate above, subacute to acute, eglandular-ciliate, deltoid. Pedicels eglandular-pubescent, very short or absent. Calyx divisions equally deep. Calyx 2.5–3.5 mm long; lobes 5, not all similar, ovate to deltoid, subacute, eglandular-ciliate. Corolla (6–)7–8 mm diameter, pink at anthesis, paler after pollination, throat pink; corolla tube 2.0–2.5 mm long, 1.0–1.5 mm wide, cylindric, slightly swollen at base, equalling or shorter than calyx, glabrous; corolla lobes glabrous; posterior lobe longer than tube, more or less circular, subacute, erect to spreading; lateral lobes broadly elliptic, subacute, spreading; anterior lobe elliptic, subacute, spreading. Stamen filaments white, inserted between middle and base of corolla tube, 2.0–2.5 mm long. Anthers pale yellow. Nectarial disk glandular-ciliate. Ovary globose, emarginate, glabrous, 0.8–1.2 x 0.8–0.9 mm, 0.5–0.6 mm thick. Ovules approximately 16 per locule. Style 5–7 mm long, approximately 0.25 mm thick, usually glabrous, sometimes with long glandular hairs, pink, becoming white with age. Stigma globose, pink at anthesis, 0.2–0.3 mm wide. Capsule angustiseptate to turgid, truncate to emarginate, dark brown, 3.5–4.0 x 2.5 mm, 2 mm thick, glabrous; loculicidal split extending 1/3–1/2-way to base. Seeds weakly flattened, winged, fusiform to obovoid or irregular, pale to reddish brown, smooth to weakly rugulose on back, (1.0–)1.5–2.5 x 0.8–1.0 mm.



Rachel Range, Upper Awatere. Dec 1994.
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Marlborough. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison,
Date taken: 27/03/2021, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Veronica raoulii* but *Veronica pentasepala* has a more erect habit, leaves widest at about the middle, and five free calyx lobes, the posterior one usually only slightly smaller than the others.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island – Marlborough inland valleys

HABITAT

Cliffs, rocks, rocky slopes, steep grassland, often on limestone, 300-1450 m.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica pentasepala (L.B.Moore) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe raoulii var. *pentasepala* L.B.Moore, *Parahebe raoulii* subsp. *pentasepala* (L.Moore) Heads; *Heliohebe pentasepala* (L.B.Moore) Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

September-November

FRUITING

December-February

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

VERPEN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

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: 333-333. © The Royal Society of New Zealand, reprinted 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-pentasepala/>

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