

Veronica raoulii

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing pairs of small narrow leaves inhabiting rocky open sites in Marlborough and northern Canterbury. Leaves 7-17mm long, margin with up to 8 pairs of teeth. Flowers pinkish, in clusters of usually more than 30..

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub or spreading low shrub, 0.07-0.3 m tall. Branches ascending to erect; branchlets dark red-brown; vegetative internodes 2-10 (-15) mm long; stem pubescence glandular and eglandular (glandular hairs minute and obscure). Leaves erecto-patent to spreading or recurved; lamina usually lanceolate or spatulate, sometimes linear-oblongate, 7-17 (-25) x 2-6 (-9) mm wide; apex acute or subacute and subapiculate, rarely acute; margin smooth, or ciliate and glandular-ciliate on petiole and sometimes at apex, serrate; teeth blunt, in (0-) 2-4 (-8) pairs; adaxial surface of leaves green or yellowish green, glossy; midrib depressed to grooved above and beneath. Petiole 2-5 mm long. Inflorescence with (16-) 30-80 (-100) flowers; rachis pubescent; bracts opposite and decussate to subopposite to alternate, eglandular-ciliate or ciliate with both glandular and eglandular hairs. Calyx lobes 4 (-5), eglandular-ciliate, or glandular and eglandular-ciliate. Corolla pink to mauve or white at anthesis, white or mauve after pollination. Stamen filaments inserted between throat and middle of corolla tube, 1.5-2.0 mm long. Nectarial disk ciliate to ciliolate, rarely with a few glandular hairs. Ovary glabrous. Style 4-6 mm long, glabrous, white or pale mauve. Stigma narrowly capitate, 0.2-0.25 mm wide. Capsule turgid or broadly angustiseptate, truncate. Seeds (1.2-) 1.5-2.0 (-2.8) x 0.6-1.2 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica raoulii is distinguished from *Veronica maccaskillii* by its narrower, more toothed leaves, often pink corollas, lack of a posterior fifth calyx lobe, and more erect softer habit. *Veronica raoulii* is distinguished from *Veronica scrupea* by its oblanceolate leaves with fewer teeth, exserted stamens, and its fused anterior calyx lobes and paler flowers. *Veronica raoulii* is distinguished from *Veronica pentasepala* by its fused anterior calyx lobes and lack of a fifth lobe. *Veronica raoulii* is distinguished from *Veronica lavaudiana* by its narrower leaves, eglandular indumentum, and more lax inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island – Marlborough and Christchurch

HABITAT

Rock outcrops in grassland and scrub, river gorges, occasionally on talus and scree, not on limestone, 150-1100 m.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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Torlesse Range. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Lake Lyndon, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica raoulii Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Veronica raoulii Hook.f. subsp. *raoulii*, *Hebe raoulii* (Hook.f.) Cockayne et Allan, *Hebe raoulii* (Hook.f.) Cockayne et Allan var. *raoulii*, *Parahebe raoulii* (Hook.f.) Heads,; *Heliohebe raoulii* (Hook.f.) Garn.-Jones; *Heliohebe raoulii* (Hook.f.) Garn.-Jones subsp. *raoulii*

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

(September) October-November (December)

FRUITING

(September) October-November (December)

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'.

raoulii: After Raoul

NVS CODE

VERRAO

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: 334. © 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-raoulii/>

PDF DATE

28 August 2025