

Lobelia linnaeoides

COMMON NAME

mountain lobelia

SYNONYMS

Pratia linnaeoides Hook. f

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobelia linnaeoides (Hook.f.) Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

LOBLIN

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (from Marlborough to Southland)

HABITAT

Higher montane to alpine grassland and shrubland, often on patches of bare ground

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous or glabrate creeping herb. Sap clear. Stems up to 15 mm long (rarely more), simple or sparingly branched, slender, rooting at nodes, usually decumbent. Leaves subsessile, rather thick and fleshy, 4-8 × 4-8 mm, ± orbicular, rather coarsely sinuate-dentate in upper ½, dark green or grey-green, often purplish below. Flowers 8-12 mm long, on very slender (almost wiry), filiform peduncles 50-100 mm long. Calyx c.4 mm long, deeply divided to c.½ way, 4 mm long; lobes c.2 mm long, very narrow-triangular, acuminate. Corolla 8-10 mm long, white, pale blue, mauve or pale pink, deeper coloured in bud; lower lobes obovate or obovate-oblong, ± apiculate, upper lobes linear-oblong, acute. Capsule 5-9 × 3-4 mm; narrow-obovoid to turbinate



Mt Hutt, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



East Ahuriri. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand lobelia by the montane to alpine grassland habitat preference; prostrate, creeping growth habit, clear sap, dark green to grey-green, thick (almost succulent), glabrous or glabrate, coarsely sinuate-dentate, subsessile, orbicular leaves; usually pale blue or pale pink flowers with linear-oblong corolla lobes; and by the loculicidally dehiscent narrow-obovoid to turbinate capsule, with the apical part of the capsule splitting at the apex by two valves).

FLOWERING

December – February

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Prefers a cool root run. Dislikes humidity. Best in a free draining site within a rock garden or grown within a pot in an alpine house.

ETYMOLOGY

lobelia: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Webb et al. (1998).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. DSIR Botany Division, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lobelia-linnaeoides/>