

# Veronica colostylis

## SYNONYMS

*Parahebe linifolia* subsp. *brevistylis* Garn.-Jones, *Parahebe brevistylis* (Garn.-Jones) Heads

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica colostylis* Garn.-Jones

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

PARBRE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (on both sides of the main divide from Rangitata River to Fiordland and The Hump)

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine. On cliffs, rock outcrops, river gravel, river banks, moraines and in grassland.



South Temple Valley. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Low subshrub, 50-150 mm tall. Old stems brown. Branches decumbent to ascending. Branchlets brown or red-brown or purplish. Vegetative internodes 1-8 mm long. Stem pubescence absent or bifarious, eglandular pubescent. Leaves decussate, erecto-patent to recurved. Lamina linear to oblong (narrowly), 4-15 × 1-3 mm. Upper surface of leaves green, glossy. Under surface of leaves pale green, dull. Leaf hairs sparse to scattered, along margins (especially at base), eglandular. Apex rounded or truncate. Base cuneate. Margin ciliate (especially at base), entire. Petiole 1-3 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, unbranched, 10-40 mm at fruiting, with 2-6 flowers. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels absent. Peduncle 3-20 mm, glabrous. Rachis 0-15 mm long, glabrous. Bracts alternate (basal pair sometimes subopposite), obtuse, glabrous (rarely a few hairs on margin at base), linear to elliptic (narrowly). Bract margins entire. Pedicels erecto-patent at anthesis to suberect at anthesis, incurved at fruiting, 4-15 mm long, glabrous. Flowers: Calyx 4-lobed, 3-9 mm long. Calyx lobes lanceolate to deltoid or elliptic or obovate, subacute to obtuse. Calyx hairs absent (calyx glabrous). Calyx lobe margins entire. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides pink, obscure or absent, confined to posterior corolla lobe if present. Colour ring pink or absent. Corolla throat same colour as lobes. Corolla 5-10 mm diameter. Corolla tube 1.2-3.5 × 1.0-2.0 mm wide, glabrous. Corolla lobes glabrous. Posterior corolla lobe elliptic to ovate, obtuse, 5-7 × 3-5 mm. Lateral corolla lobes elliptic to ovate, subacute to obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 5.0-7.0 × 3.5-5.0 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic (narrowly), subacute, 4.0-7.0 × 2.0-3.5 mm. Stamen filaments white, 1-3 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers pink to magenta, 1.0-2.0 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary flattened, globose, obtuse, glabrous, 1-2 mm long. Style 2-4 mm long. Stigma 0.4-0.7 mm wide. Capsules broadly angustiseptate, truncate to emarginate, 3.5-4.0 × 3.5-4.0 mm, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending ¼-½ way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, smooth-surfaced, ellipsoid, brown, 0.5-0.8 × 0.3-0.6 mm

## FLOWERING

October - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## FRUITING

December - April

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings, rooted pieces and fresh seed. Best in an alpine house, or rock garden. Dislikes humidity and drought intolerant.

## 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'.

## WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 181-23

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-colostylis/>