

Veronica cheesemanii subsp. flabellata

COMMON NAMES

Arthur's Pass parahebe

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Cushion-forming subshrub, 10–40 mm tall. Stem and branchlets brown. Branches prostrate to ascending. Vegetative internodes 1–12 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent. Leaves erect to erecto-patent or recurved (in distal portion). Lamina elliptic or orbicular, 2–5 × 2–3 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Under surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Leaf hairs sparse, numerous or absent, unicellular eglandular (hairs 0.3–0.5 mm long on petioles). Apex subacute to obtuse. Base cuneate. Margin minutely papillate or denticulate, crenate or lobed. Marginal teeth or lobes in 2–5 pairs. Petiole 3–6 mm long. Inflorescence 1–2(–3)-flowered, 2–10 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels dense. Peduncle 0–20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Rachis 0–20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Bracts paired, opposite, obtuse or subacute, eglandular-hairy above and eglandular-hairy below, spathulate. Bract margins shallowly to deeply lobed. Pedicels patent at anthesis, straight at fruiting, 0–2 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Flowers: Calyx 4(–5)-lobed, 4–7 mm long, lobes oblanceolate, oblong, spathulate, subacute to obtuse. Calyx hairs on both abaxial and adaxial surfaces, eglandular. Calyx lobe margins shallowly lobed. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides absent. Corolla throat same colour as lobes. Corolla 4–7 mm diameter. Corolla tube 3.5–7.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, glabrous or shortly hairy outside. Corolla lobes glabrous or pubescent below. Posterior corolla lobe circular, elliptic or deltoid, obtuse, emarginate or divided in two, 2–3 × 2–4 mm. Lateral corolla lobes circular or elliptic, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 2–4 × 2–4 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic, obtuse, 2.0–3.0 × 1.5–2.5 mm. Stamen filaments white, 1.5–2.0 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers pink to magenta, 1.0–1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid or globose, obtuse, eglandular hairy, 1.0–1.5 mm long. Style 1.5–2.5 mm long. Capsules strongly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3–4 × 3–4 mm, 2–3 mm thick, hairy. Hairs eglandular. Septicidal split of capsule extending ½-way to base (split to base in old capsules). Loculicidal split of capsule extending ¾ way to base or to base. Seeds ellipsoid to obovoid, pale brown to dark brown, 0.6–1.1 × 0.5–0.7 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica cheesemanii subsp. *flabellata* differs from subsp. *cheesemanii* by the elliptic or orbicular, crenate to shallowly pinnatifid leaves which are lobed ½-way, and by the petiole hairs which are 0.3–0.5 mm long. For other details see under subsp. *cheesemanii*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Arthur's Pass National Park)

HABITAT

Alpine. Inhabiting gritty and silt soils within stable screes, also on cliff faces and very rarely growing at the margins of small tarns.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

THREATS

Range Restricted - known from only a few locations where it can be at times locally common. However, the total area it occupies is very small. There are no known threats.



DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica cheesemanii subsp. *flabellata* (Garn.-Jones) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Parahebe cheesemanii subsp. *flabellata* Garn.-Jones

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

December - January

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown in a rock garden or alpine house in a sunny position with a cool root run.

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'.

cheesemanii: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

flabellata: Fan shaped; from the Latin *flabellum*; shape of the leaves

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

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: 181-232.

ATTRIBUTION

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cheesemanii-subsp-flabellata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cheesemanii-subsp-flabellata/>

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15 October 2024