

Wahlenbergia rupestris

COMMON NAMES

white harebell

SYNONYMS

Wahlenbergia colensoi N.E.Br. pro. parte., *Wahlenbergia gracilis* sensu Allan nom. inv.

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia rupestris G.Simpson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

WAHRUP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Radicant, perennial herb. Stems slender, erect, 100-500 mm tall, branching from the base, terete. Leaves alternate, usually linear-oblongate to linear*, 15-20 mm long, subentire, with scattered hairs on margins and lamina. Flowers pure white, 9-25 mm diameter, corolla almost tubeless, with long lobes and shallow, saucer-shaped tube 2 × 5 mm. Capsule glabrous, 7 × 3 to 10 × 4 mm, ellipsoid to obconic. **W. colensoi* was named for forms with spatulate basal leaves rather than linear; as currently described, *W. rupestris* includes plants once known as *W. colensoi*.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North and South Islands (mainly inland sites from Whanganui, Rangitikei, Manawatu, and Wairarapa to Central Otago, excluding Canterbury Plains but including Banks Peninsula and Otago Peninsula)



Spatulate leaves (as in "*W. colensoi*"); open forest on limestone, near Whanganui.

Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 17/11/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In dry, open forest on limestone, near Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 17/11/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

HABITAT

Coastal to montane. Usually on rocks, cliffs, river gorges and on sparsely vegetated terraces. Only coastal in southern part of range.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Radicant, perennial herb. Stems slender, erect, 100-500 mm tall, branching from the base, terete. Leaves alternate, often dark green, usually linear-oblong to linear*, 15-20 mm long, subentire, with scattered hairs on margins and lamina. Callus teeth 4-5 on each margin. Bracts linear, 4-20 × 2 mm. Flowers self-compatible, pure white, 9-25 mm diameter, 6-13 mm long, on slender pedicels 50-100 mm long. Corolla rotate, almost tubeless, with long lobes and shallow, saucer-shaped tube 2 × 5 mm. Corolla lobes 8 × 5 mm to 11 × 6 mm, strongly constricted below stigma lobes, white. Calyx glabrous, lobes 2.0 × 0.7 mm to 3.0 × 1.0 mm, narrow-triangular, erect. Capsule glabrous, 7 × 3 to 10 × 4 mm, ellipsoid to obconic. Bud at anther dehiscence slender, pointed. Seeds 0.5 mm long. *W. colensoi was named for forms with spatulate basal leaves rather than linear; as currently described, *W. rupestris* includes plants once known as *W. colensoi*.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the dark green to reddish-green, often narrow, alternate leaves; pure white long-petalled rotate flowers, with very shallow saucer-shaped tube and elliptic corolla lobes which are separate to base (not overlapping), resulting in a stark-like appearance when viewed from above.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

December to February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Does best in a sunny situation in well drained soil. In suitable conditions it freely naturalises and can even become weedy.

ETYMOLOGY

wahlenbergia: Named in honour of Wahlenberg, a Swedish botanist and author of *A Botany of Lapland*.

rupestris: From the Latin *rupes* 'rock, cliff', meaning growing in rocky places

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange 12 June 2007. Description adapted from Petterson (1997).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Petterson, J.A. 1997: Revision of the genus *Wahlenbergia* (Campanulaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35: 9-54.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-rupestris/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-rupestris/>

PDF DATE

17 September 2024