

# Wahlenbergia violacea

## COMMON NAMES

violet harebell

## SYNONYMS

*Wahlenbergia gracilis* sensu Allan nom. inv., *Wahlenbergia marginata* sensu Tuyn nom. inv., *Wahlenbergia marginata* var. *australis* Hatch nom. nud.

## FAMILY

Campanulaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Wahlenbergia violacea* J.A.Petterson

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

WAHVIO

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 72$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: North and South Islands. Also Norfolk Island.

## HABITAT

Rarely coastal, mostly inland and lowland in scrub or bracken-clothed hills, or thin pasture, usually on clay; rural roadsides, burnt or eroded or disturbed places, often invasive in gardens.



Coromandel, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Remutaka Rail Trail. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Radicant perennial herb. **Stems** 100–500 mm tall, slender, erect or decumbent. **Leaves** oblanceolate to lanceolate to linear, shallowly denticulate to subentire, dark green, the lowermost 2–5 pairs opposite in seedlings and young shoots. **Pedicels** slender, 30–150 mm long. **Flowers** self-fertile, glabrous, 5–18 mm diameter, 2–10 mm long, bright blue-violet, paler outside. **Corolla** shortly campanulate, bowl-shaped, often with tube distinctly angled at the sinus; tube 1.5 × 3.0 mm to 3 × 4 mm,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  length of corolla; corolla lobes ovate, acute, overlapping or touching in open flower, 3 × 2 mm to 7 × 4 mm. **Style** capitate, thickened, and blue at apex. **Stigmas** large, often white and fluffy. **Calyx lobes** glabrous 1.5 × 0.7 mm to 4 × 1 mm narrowly triangular, equal in length to corolla lobe. **Capsule** glabrous obconic, with protruding apical valves. **Bud** at anther dehiscence tinted blue. **Seeds** 0.5 mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand radicate *Wahlenbergia* Roth. by the blue-violet flower colour, shortly campanulate corolla with bowl-shaped tube, and ovate acute corolla lobes, touching or overlapping in the open flower, giving the flower a compact appearance. Usually there are 2–6 pairs of opposite leaves in young shoots and seedlings.

## FLOWERING

November–April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

December–April

## 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*.

**violacea**: Violet coloured

## ATTRIBUTION

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

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Petterson JA. 1997. Revision of the genus *Wahlenbergia* (Campanulaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35: 9–54. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.1997.10410669>

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024