

Veronica stricta var. lata

COMMON NAMES

koromiko

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing bushy shrub to 1m tall bearing pairs of narrow leaves inhabiting the eastern North Island. Leaves variable, to 70.5mm long, widest around middle and tapering towards narrow tip, margin hairy (lens needed). Leaf bud with no gap at base. Flowers white or pinkish, spike to 12cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Compact shrub < 1 m tall, usually wider than tall. Branchlets glabrescent. Stem internodes shorter than or equal to stem diameter. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves, spreading, 50-115 mm, dark green, glossy, elliptic, fleshy, apex acute, leaf margin usually entire, or toothed. Inflorescence lateral, racemose, much longer than leaves, occasionally drooping, bracts and calyx-lobes ciliolate otherwise all other inflorescence structures glabrous. Flowers white, not obviously scented. Corolla tube 6 mm, exceeding calyx, narrow, cylindrical, lobes rounded. Capsules < 5 mm long, glabrous, erect.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica stricta var. lata and var. egmontiana differ from other varieties of *V. stricta* by their compact branching habit, somewhat firmly fleshy leaves, which may be dull or glossy, shorter stem internodes and tetraploid chromosome number. Veronica stricta var. egmontiana differs from var. lata by the linear-lanceolate, dull green (not glossy) leaves, and generally larger growth form. The name Veronica stricta var. lata is here used in the narrow sense of the original naming author, such that this variety is restricted to the Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges. However some field botanists feel that those tetraploid plants found on the Central Volcanic Plateau and var. lata of the greywacke ranges (Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges) should be merged with var. egmontiana at species rank. This unpublished opinion has confused the literature as to what Veronica stricta var. lata is and where var. egmontiana actually occurs. A revision is needed.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Central North Island and Raukumara Ranges.

HABITAT

Common in open sites within montane forest, in subalpine scrub and associated talus slopes.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

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DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica stricta var. lata (L.B.Moore) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe stricta var. lata L.B.Moore



ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

(July-) August (-October) but flowering can also occur sporadically throughout the year

FRUITING

(September-) November (-January) but seed capsules may be found throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings.

OTHER INFORMATION

CULTIVATION

Not commonly cultivated. Probably not available commercially though it is possible that some forms sold as Veronica (Hebe) stricta var. egmontiana are referable to var. lata.

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'.

stricta: From the Latin strictus 'upright, stiff'

NVS CODE

VERSVL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

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REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I, Wellington, Government Printer

Bayly M. and Kellow A. (2006). An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press: Wellington

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2005). Description based on Allan (1961) - see also Bayly & Kellow (2006)

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stricta-var-lata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stricta-var-lata/>

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