

Veronica stricta var. lata

COMMON NAME

koromiko

SYNONYMS

Hebe stricta var. *lata* L.B.Moore

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

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

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF 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.

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.

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 This unpublished opinion has confused the literature as to what *Veronica stricta* var.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.

FLOWERING

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

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings.

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'

WHERE TO BUY

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*.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

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/>