

Geranium molle

COMMON NAME

dove's foot cranesbill

FAMILY

Geraniaceae

AUTHORITY

Geranium molle L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

GERMOL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Common weed of wasteland, grassland, and open places within coastal to montane forest.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual herb to 450 mm tall; stem usually branched from base, pilose, with long eglandular hairs 1.0–1.7 mm long and short glandular/eglandular hairs < 0.5 mm long. **Basal rosette leaves** persistent; lamina 9–4 × 9–52 mm, divided for 0.5–0.75 of its length, pilose, with eglandular appressed hairs; segments 7–9, usually 3–(4)-lobed at apex; lower cauline leaves alternate; petioles to 140 mm, with patent, long eglandular hairs 1.0–1.5 mm long and short glandular/eglandular hairs < 0.5 mm long; stipules 6–9 × 1.5–4.0 mm, ovate-lanceolate, sometimes lobed, abaxially eglandular pilose, glabrous adaxially. **Bracts** 2–3 × 1.3–1.5 mm, pilose with eglandular hairs on abaxial surface and on the margin, glabrous adaxially; peduncles 5–80 mm long, eglandular pilose (hairs 1.0–1.8 mm long) with short (< 0.5 mm) glandular/eglandular hairs; pedicels 5–15 mm, pilose, with eglandular patent hairs 1.0–1.8 mm, and short (< 0.5 mm) glandular/eglandular hairs. **Sepals** (1)–2.5–5.5–(6) × (0.9)–1.2–2.1–(2.5) mm, mucronulate, with scarious margins 0.1–0.2 mm wide, with eglandular hairs 1.0–1.5 mm long and some shorter (< 0.5 mm) eglandular/glandular hairs on the abaxial side, glabrous on the adaxial side. **Petals** (3)–4.5–8.5–(10.5) × (1.5)–2.0–5.0–(7.0) mm, emarginate (notch 1.0–2.5 mm deep), with short claw, bright purple. **Stamens** 10, filaments 4–5 mm, lanceolate, glabrous except for few cilia on the proximal half; anthers 0.7–1.5 × 0.3–0.5 mm, purple. **Gynoecium** 5–6 mm long; stigma purple. **Fruit** 8–14 mm long; mericarps 1.8–2.1 × 1.2–1.4 mm, transversely wrinkled, without longitudinal rib, covering the seed completely, glabrous on the surface, with a few ciliae at the base; rostrum 6–11 mm long, with a narrowed apex 1–3 mm, pilose (with erect-patent eglandular hairs c. 0.3 mm long); stigmatic remnant c. 1–2 mm long, with 5 pilose lobes. Seeds 1.4–1.8 × 1.0–1.2 mm, brownish.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple



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YEAR NATURALISED

1852

ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia E. to Himalaya, N. Africa, Macronesia

ETYMOLOGY

geranium: From the Greek geranos 'crane', the fruit of the plant resembling the head and beak of this bird, hence the common name cranesbill.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/geranium-molle/>