

Gratiola pubescens

COMMON NAME

Hairy Brooklime

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Gratiola pubescens R.Br.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2009 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant | Qualifiers: SO

2004 | Non-resident Native – Vagrant

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand known only from the North Island, at Parkinsons Lake on the southern side of the Awhitu Peninsula. Common in Australia

HABITAT

In New Zealand this species was collected once from the margin of a small dune lake where it grew in association with *Gratiola sexdentata* R.Cunn. ex A.Cunn. in a low marginal turf community.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect to procumbent glandular sticky perennial herb 25-200 mm tall, all parts except flowers and older growth conspicuously though finely glandular pubescent. Sessile glands globular. Sometimes with larger scattered, eglandular hairs. Branches dark green to purple-green, non-maculate, initially decumbent, rooting at nodes soon ascending to erect. Leaves 7-26 x 2-6 mm, yellow-green to dark green with spots or stitch marks, narrow-elliptic to lanceolate, base cuneate or amplexicaul, margins with 1-3 pairs of broadly acute teeth. Flowers solitary in bract axils; pedicels 1-3 mm long; bracteoles 3-4.5 mm; sepals 3-6 mm long; corolla 10-12 mm long, pink, pink-purple or white (pink-purple in New Zealand specimen), with yellow tube and pale inner face of limb, hirsute inside on the upper side; staminodes 2. Capsule 2.5-5 mm, broadly ovoid; style remnant 2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most likely to be confused with *Gratiola sexdentata* from which it differs by its distinctly pubescent, unspotted/blemished stems and leaves and (in New Zealand specimens) pinkish-purple flowers. On occasion *Gratiola sexdentata* can be moderately hairy but it can still be separated from *G. pubescens* by its characteristically spotted/blemished leaves and stems and consistently white flowers.



FLOWERING

October - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

October - July

LIFE CYCLE

Mucilaginous seeds are dispersed by water and possibly wind and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. However, it is probably easily grown if treated in the same manner as *Gratiola sexdentata* and *C. pedunculata* R.Br.

THREATS

Collected once in 1999 and not seen again at that site. However, it is easily overlooked as a very hairy form of *Gratiola sexdentata* so it may be more widespread than current evidence suggests.

ETYMOLOGY

gratiola: Little beauty

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In New Zealand known from a single gathering made from Parkinsons Lake made in January 1999 (AK 247105, P. J. de Lange 3896).

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 4 May 2006. Description by P.J. de Lange.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Gratiola pubescens* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gratiola-pubescens/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gratiola-pubescens/>