

Jovellana repens

FAMILY

Calceolariaceae

AUTHORITY

Jovellana repens (Hook.f.) Kraenzel.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

JOVREP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

North and South Islands from Mt Pirongia (in the west) and Te Moehau (in the East) south. Mostly montane and sparse in the northern part of range but becoming more common and ranging from lowland to upper montane from about the main North Island axial ranges south.

HABITAT

In shaded sites along streamsides – on banks and amongst boulders where silt, sand and humus has accumulated, also in seepages on banks, cliffs and within forest.



Akatarewa, December. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Waingawa River valley, Tararua Range. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 12/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous, ± glandular-pubescent, widely creeping, much-branched perennial forming leafy patches 1-2 metres in diameter. Stems 20-30 mm long, slender, usually dark red to pink sometimes green, prostrate, rooting freely at nodes; branches prostrate, apices weakly ascendant, ± filiform, clad in patent hairs. Leaves opposite, membranous (somewhat brittle), finely pubescent; petiole fleshy, 5-12 × 2.0-2.3 mm, clad in fine patent hairs; lamina 10-40 mm long, dark green to reddish green above, pale green or red beneath, ovate, orbicular, suborbicular to broad-oblong, apex ± rounded, obtuse to subacute, bases abruptly truncate to weakly cordate, margins coarsely and irregularly doubly crenate-dentate. Inflorescences sparse to numerous, terminal, axillary (or both), somewhat obscured by foliage, paniculate (often occurring in groupings of 2-3 near branch apices) comprising 1-5-flowered (us. 2-3 together); pedicels subfiliform, nude or bracted. Flowers 6 mm. diameter; calyx-lobes 1-2 mm long, ovate, acute or subacute. Corolla c. 5-6 mm. diameter, cut to nearly halfway into 2 ± equal deeply concave lips, white, purple-spotted. Capsule ovoid to obovoid, 6-7 mm long. Seed 0.35-0.50 mm, dark red-brown, usually asymmetrically elliptic or broadly elliptic, occasionally oblong.

SIMILAR TAXA

Readily distinguished from the much less common *Jovellana sinclairii* by its creeping rather shrub forming growth habit, smaller leaves, and smaller, fewer-flowered inflorescences. Sterile plants have been confused with vegetative plants of *Brachyglottis sciadophila* – which differs by its lianoid growth habit with long trailing, sparsely branched, flexuous woody stems, widely spaced orbicular to broad ovate-orbicular, coarsely and acutely serrated somewhat scaberulous leaves. Nevertheless when growing on the forest floor this species has a remarkable resemblance to *Jovellana*, though even then it rarely roots at the nodes, and though forming tangled masses is always sparsely branched. The yellow daisy flowers of *Brachyglottis sciadophila* clearly distinguish it from the white-flowered *Jovellana repens*. *Jovellana repens* can also be confused with *Parahebe jovellanoides*. However this *Parahebe* has orbicular, deltoid to spatulate leaves. Flowering specimens are easily distinguished by their unbranched, 1-7-flowered racemose inflorescences, and non-pouched flowers with magenta corolla ring and stripes.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are dispersed by wind and possibly water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

ETYMOLOGY

jovellana: A man's name

repens: From Latin *reperere* meaning to creep, means creeping

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange for NZPCN (1 June 2013)

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

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/jovellana-repens/>