

Lobelia carens

SYNONYMS

None (described in 2008)

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobelia carens Heenan

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (South Auckland, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and

HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine. A species of the margins of lake, tarn and ephemeral wetlands, stream banks, and seepages in tussock grassland, where it grows with other short turf and small herb species.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Lake Wairarapa wetlands (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/04/2008, Licence: CC BY.



Lake Wairarapa wetlands (from a specimen collected by Pat Enright). Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/04/2008,

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Creeping, prostrate, moderately hairy to occasionally glabrous herb; rooting at leaf nodes. Leaves alternate, upright to spreading; lamina 2.5–7.2 × 1.5–6.0 mm, orbicular, suborbicular, to broadly elliptic, often oblanceolate to oblong in shade, green, blotched purple-brown, moderately hairy, hairs < 0.2 mm long and patent, rarely glabrous, midvein faint, lateral veins faint to obscure, margin with 5–7 prominent denticles or shallow teeth, apex obtuse to subacute; petiole 0.5–1.5 × 0.2–0.4 mm. Flowers hermaphrodite, resupinate, axillary, solitary; peduncle 0.5–27.0 × 0.3–0.6 mm. Calyx with short tube adnate to ovary; lobes 5, 1.2–1.5 × 0.4–0.8 mm, green, narrow triangular to lanceolate, underside glabrous to moderately hairy, upper surface glabrous or occasionally sparsely hairy near apex; apex subacute and with conspicuous, translucent, tip. Corolla up to 9.5 mm long in late bud, 6.0–8.0 mm diameter when open, white, with two green or yellow-green markings between the sinus of the front three corolla lobes, without conspicuous purple-violet blotches at the base of the three front corolla lobes; tube 2.5–4.5 mm long, 1.0–2.0 mm wide, fused, under surface glabrous to sparsely hairy, upper surface sometimes sparsely hairy; lobes 5, 2.4–5.0 × 0.8–1.5 mm, narrow-lanceolate, recurved, apex subacute. Filaments 3.0–3.6 × 0.2–0.3 mm, fused below anthers, adnate from base to upper half of the corolla tube, white occasionally flushed pale blue in distal part, becoming translucent and flushed green toward proximal part. Anthers united into a tube around style, 0.9–1.5 mm long, purple-brown, curved over at top. Nectary annular, 0.2–0.4 mm high, green to yellow-green; apex sparsely hairy. Ovary 1.5–2.5 × 1.1–1.4 mm, green, usually moderately hairy, occasionally glabrous, apex obtuse. Style 4.3–5.5 × 0.2–0.4 mm, white to pale green, exerted beyond anthers. Stigma bilobed, lobes 0.3–0.7 × 0.4–1.0 mm, pink. Capsule 2.4–3.5 × 2.0–2.8 mm, green, often flushed purple-brown; thin-walled, seeds visible through wall, indehiscent and without apical valves, disintegrating with age; apex crowned with persistent style base; base obtuse to slightly cuneate. Seed broadly elliptic to obovate-oblong, olive green, semi-glossy, 0.4–0.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Differs from *Lobelia ionantha* Heenan and *L. fatiscens* Heenan by its usually hairy stems, leaves, and flower parts, from *L. ionantha* by smaller flowers that lack purple blotches at the base of the lower three corolla lobes, and from *L. fatiscens* by its usually orbicular leaves, larger flowers, and fewer chromosomes

FLOWERING

Throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

Throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed and rooted pieces. An attractive ground cover for a damp sunny or semi-shaded site. An excellent pot plant.

THREATS

Known from about 10 sites – a few populations are within National Parks and are probably secure, otherwise the rest of the wetland habitats it occupies have been or continue to be modified by naturalised species.

ETYMOLOGY

lobelia: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Heenan et al. (2008).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan et al. 2008: Generic placement in *Lobelia* and revised taxonomy for New Zealand species previously in *Hypsela* and *Isotoma* (Lobeliaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 46: 87–100.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lobelia-carens/>