

Lobelia roughii

COMMON NAME

scree lobelia, Rough's Lobelia

SYNONYMS

None (described in 1864)

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Lobelia roughii Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

LOBROU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 14

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough, Canterbury and Otago)

HABITAT

Higher montane to subalpine. In rock-debris and stable and mobile screes

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous herb. Stems and leaves when bruised or broken exuding pale yellow acrid sap. Roots numerous, rather stout, far-spreading; stems and branches tough, ascending through rock-debris; branchlets appearing above surface, up to 100 mm long. Leaves thick, coriaceous, on broad flat petioles circa 5 mm. long. Lamina circa 10–25 x 10–20 mm; obovate to broad-oblong to elliptic in outline, cuneately narrowed to base; coarsely, deeply dentate; teeth very narrow-triangular, blunt, elongating to circa 6 mm. Flowers circa 10 mm long, on stout peduncles up to 50 mm long. Calyx 5–7 mm long, persistent; lobes linear, thick, obtuse, elongating to c. 8 mm in fruit. Corolla white, hardly > calyx, split to near base into 2 lips; upper lip with 2 narrow segments, lower 3-lobed to c. 1/2 way; anthers not awned. Capsule coriaceous, 10–12 mm. long, broad-obovoid to suborbicular



Taken at Island Pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Taken at Island Pass, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA

Recognised by the restriction to rock-debris and scree habitats; much-branched stems; by the elliptic to oblong or obovate deeply incised leaves which are mostly 12 mm long; by the stout peduncles which are up to 50 mm long; and white flowers

FLOWERING

December - April

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

October - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown in a pot or a rock garden. Slow to establish and hard to maintain.

ETYMOLOGY

lobelia: Named after Lobel, pioneer botanist

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Webb et al. (1988).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1988: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. DSIR Botany Division, Christchurch.

MORE INFORMATION

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