

Veronica cheesemanii subsp. cheesemanii

COMMON NAME

Cheeseman's parahebe, Cheeseman's speedwell

SYNONYMS

Parahebe cheesemanii (Benth.) W.R.B.Oliv., *Parahebe cheesemanii* (Benth.) W.R.B.Oliv. subsp. *cheesemanii*

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica cheesemanii Benth. subsp. *cheesemanii*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand. South Island (North-West Nelson, Richmond Range, Raglan Range, and Nelson Lakes National Park).

HABITAT

Alpine. A species of fine-grained, stable screes and their associated grit soils.



Mt Peel, Nelson, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Nelson Lake National Park. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 09/01/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Cushion-forming subshrub, 10-40 mm tall. Stem and branchlets brown. Branches prostrate to ascending. Vegetative internodes 1-12 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent. Leaves erect to erecto-patent or recurved (in distal portion). Lamina ovate, deltoid, spathulate, or rhomboid, 2-5 × 2-3 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Under surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Leaf hairs sparse, numerous or absent, or unicellular eglandular, uniseriate (0.5-1.0 mm long on petioles). Apex subacute to obtuse. Base cuneate. Margin minutely papillate or denticulate, pinnatifid, to bipinnatifid on basal lobes. Marginal teeth or lobes in 2-5 pairs. Petiole 3-6 mm long. Inflorescence 1-2(-3)-flowered, 2-10 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels dense. Peduncle 0-20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Rachis 0-20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Bracts paired, opposite, obtuse or subacute, eglandular-hairy above and eglandular-hairy below, spathulate. Bract margins shallowly to deeply lobed. Pedicels patent at anthesis, straight at fruiting, 0-2 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Flowers: Calyx 4(-5)-lobed, 4-7 mm long, lobes oblanceolate, oblong, spathulate, subacute to obtuse. Calyx hairs on both abaxial and adaxial surfaces, eglandular. Calyx lobe margins pinnatifid. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides absent. Corolla throat same colour as lobes. Corolla 4-7 mm diameter. Corolla tube 3.5-7.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, glabrous or shortly hairy outside. Corolla lobes glabrous or pubescent below. Posterior corolla lobe circular, elliptic or deltoid, obtuse, emarginate or divided in two, 2-3 × 2-4 mm. Lateral corolla lobes circular or elliptic, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 2-4 × 2-4 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic, obtuse, 2.0-3.0 × 1.5-2.5 mm. Stamen filaments white, 1.5-2.0 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers pink to magenta, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid &/or globose, obtuse, eglandular hairy, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Style 1.5-2.5 mm long. Capsules strongly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3-4 × 3-4 mm, 2-3 mm thick, hairy. Hairs eglandular. Septicidal split of capsule extending 1/3 way to base (split to base in old capsules). Loculicidal split of capsule extending 3/4 way to base or to base. Seeds ellipsoid to obovoid, pale brown to dark brown, 0.6-1.1 × 0.5-0.7 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica cheesemanii is allied to *V. spathulata* from which it differs by being endemic to the South Island, by the pinnatifid rather than entire or bluntly toothed calyx lobes; usually solitary (rarely 2-3) rather than 2-8-flowered inflorescences; corolla tube 3.5-7.0 cf. 3.0-4.0 mm long (longer than rather than equal to the lobes); and by the capsule dehiscence being exclusively loculicidal. *Veronica cheesemanii* subsp. *cheesemanii* differs from subsp. *flabellata* by the ovate, deltoid, spathulate or rhomboid, pinnatifid leaves which are lobed 3/4-way or more, and by the petiole hairs which are 0.5-1.0 mm long

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Best grown in a rock garden or alpine house in a sunny position with a cool root run.

ETYMOLOGY

veronica: Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin vera 'truth' and iconica 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

cheesemanii: Named after Thomas Frederick Cheeseman (1846 - 15 October 1923) who was a New Zealand botanist and naturalist who, in 1906, produced *The Manual of the New Zealand Flora*.

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 181-232

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cheesemanii-subsp-cheesemanii/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-cheesemanii-subsp-cheesemanii/>