

# Veronica kellowiae

## COMMON NAME

hebe

## SYNONYMS

*Hebe ramosissima* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson, *Leonohebe ramosissima* (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) Heads

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica kellowiae* Garn.-Jones

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 40$

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing sprawling fleshy shrub bearing pairs of small dark green oval leaves on reddish branches inhabiting Marlborough mountains. Leaves 3.3-7.5mm long by 2-5.5mm wide, hardly narrowing to stalk. Flowers small, white, in short spikes to 2cm long at tips of twigs.

## DISTRIBUTION

South Island - mountains of east Marlborough, south-east Nelson and north Canterbury, where it occurs on the Inland and Seaward Kaikoura ranges, and near Mount Weld, Mount Terako and Mount Lyford.

## HABITAT

Alpine rocks and scree, often in moist places.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub or spreading low shrub to 0.15 m tall. Branches decumbent, old stems brown; branchlets redbrown or purplish or green, puberulent, hairs bifarious; internodes 0.9-5 (-7.5) mm; leaves not readily abscising, persistent along the stem for some distance. Leaf bud lightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves. Leaves decussate to subdistichous, connate (sometimes barely), erecto-patent to recurved; lamina elliptic to obovate (often narrowly), slightly fleshy, more or less flat or slightly concave, 3.3-7.5 (-9.5) x (1.5-) 2-5.5 mm; apex subacute to rounded (often dimpled at apex); midrib sometimes evident in fresh leaves, slightly thickened below; margin not cartilaginous, not thickened, glabrous or glandular-ciliate (sometimes minutely), sometimes tinged red, entire or shallowly toothed; upper surface green to dark green, dull or slightly glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface green to dark green, dull or slightly glossy; petiole hairy along margins. Inflorescences usually terminal and lateral (i.e. a pedunculate terminal spike subtended by 2 (-4) lateral spikes; more than 2 laterals are present only on Mount Lyford and Mount Terako specimens) or sometimes only terminal (and often with a few sterile bracts at base), unbranched, 0.8-1.7 (-2) cm; peduncle 0.15-0.4 cm; rachis 0.35-0.5 (-1.1) cm. Bracts opposite and decussate or lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, connate or free, elliptic to ovate or oblong, subacute to obtuse. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels absent. Calyx 2.5-4 mm; lobes elliptic to lanceolate or narrowly oblong, subacute (usually) or obtuse. Corolla tube glabrous; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 2.8-3.5 x 1.4-1.5 mm, cylindric, shorter than (usually) to longer than calyx; tube of female flowers approximately 3 x 1.5 mm, cylindric, equalling to shorter than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate, obtuse, patent or becoming recurved, more or less equalling corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect, 0.5-1 mm; anthers magenta, 1-1.2 mm; sterile anthers approximately 0.7 mm. Ovary ovoid (often very narrowly), approximately 2 mm; ovules 8-12 (-18) per locule; style 2-3.5 mm. Capsules acute to subacute, 3.7-4 x 1.8-2 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid, pale brown, 0.7-0.8 x 0.5-0.6 mm, micropylar rim 0.1-0.3 mm.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The inflorescences of *V. kellowiae* distinguish it from other "Connatae". The species is probably most closely related to *V. macrocalyx*, which some sterile specimens strongly resemble. It grows near *V. epacridea* at a range of localities, and probably co-occurs with *V. haastii* on Mt Terako (based on herbarium specimens only). Resemblance to *V. petriei* is suggested though each species is geographically disjunct, the corolla tube and calyx are marginally longer than *V. kellowiae*, and the bracts tend to be alternate. compared to opposite in *V. kellowiae*.

## FLOWERING

December-February

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

(December-) February-March

## 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'.

**kellowiae:** Named after botanist Alison Kellow, co-author of "An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes."

## ATTRIBUTION

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 118.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ward, M.D. (Year at time of access): *Veronica kellowiae* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-kellowiae/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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