

Veronica melanocaulon

COMMON NAME

Martin's parahebe

SYNONYMS

Parahebe catarractae subsp. *martinii* Garn.-Jones; *Parahebe martinii* (Garn.-Jones) Garn.-Jones;

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica melanocaulon Garn.-Jones

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 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough (Seaward Kaikoura Mountains from Waima River to Mt Terako and Mason River; Inland Kaikoura Mountains; Wairau Mountains (Spray River)).

HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Mostly riparian, growing in gorges and along braided or boulder-choked rivers and stream banks. Also on mostly shaded limestone and greywacke cliffs



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub to 250 mm tall. Stems grey. Branches prostrate to decumbent. Branchlets red-brown to dark purplish. Vegetative internodes 5–40 mm long. Stems bifariously eglandular-pubescent or glabrous. Leaves spreading to recurved. Lamina oblanceolate, obovate, elliptic, 5-35 × 2-15 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull, green, under surface of leaves dull, pale green. Leaf hairs dense, along midrib above and on petiole (upper surface only), eglandular. Apex subacute, obtuse, rounded. Base cuneate. Margin glabrous, serrate, teeth or lobes in 1-5 pairs. Petiole 1–4 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 6–30-flowered, unbranched, 70–210 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels moderately dense, or glabrous. Peduncle 35–100 mm long, glabrous or eglandular-pubescent (rarely) or glandular-pubescent. Rachis 35–110 mm long, eglandular-pubescent, glandular-pubescent or glabrous. Bracts alternate, linear to lanceolate, obtuse to acute, margins entire, glandular ciliate or glabrous. Pedicels 6–17 mm long, glandular-pubescent, eglandular-pubescent or glabrous. Flowers white or mauve at anthesis; nectar guides evident or obscure, magenta or pink, confined to posterior corolla lobe, colour ring magenta or pink, corolla throat yellow. Calyx 4(-5) lobed, 2.5–4.5 mm long, lobes lanceolate, elliptic or oblanceolate, acuminate to subacute, margins entire, glabrous or with glandular hairs on margins only. Corolla 7–13 mm diameter; tube 1.0–1.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm, hairy inside, hairs short. Stamen filaments white, 3.5–4 mm long, narrowed at base. Anthers pink or mauve, 1.0–1.1 mm long. Nectarial disc sparsely ciliolate or glabrous. Ovary globose, subacute, glabrous, 1.0–1.3 mm long. Style 3.0–5.0 mm long. Capsules weakly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3.0–4.3 × 3.0–4.0 mm, 1.5–1.7 mm thick, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending $\frac{3}{4}$ -way or to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ -way to base. Seeds ellipsoid or discoid, pale brown to dark brown, 0.7–1.2 × 0.5–1.0 mm

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica melanocaulon is allied to *V. lanceolata* from which it is easily distinguished by the prostrate creeping rather than prostrate to erect growth habit; usually dark red-brown, purplish to almost purple-black rather than brown or reddish stems which are in stark contrast to the pale green petioles rather than scarcely contrasting at all; and by the obovate, oblanceolate, rarely elliptic rather than ovate, lanceolate to linear leaves which are broadest above $\frac{1}{2}$ -way rather than at or below $\frac{1}{2}$ -way. *Veronica melanocaulon* grows outside the range of *V. lanceolata*.

FLOWERING

October - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

November - September

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed, cuttings and rooted pieces. However often difficult to maintain. Best grown in a pot although it appears to require frequent re-potting. Dislikes humid climates.

THREATS

Naturally Uncommon, Range Restricted endemic - locally common but known from only a small number of populations scattered over a large area. No threats have been reported though some of its river habitats are being threatened by invasive weeds.

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'.

melanocaulon: Black stemmed

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

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Veronica melanocaulon* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

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

MORE INFORMATION

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