

Veronica pareora

SYNONYMS

Hebe pareora Garn.-Jones et Molloy

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica pareora (Garn.-Jones et Molloy) 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 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing sprawling shrub bearing pairs of blue-green dished oval leaves on short branches inhabiting rocky areas in the vicinity of Pareora (south Canterbury). Leaves 20-30mm long by 15-18mm, leaf base clasps the stem. Flowers white, in a spike to 7cm long near tip of branches.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south Canterbury – Hunter Hills (Rock Gully, upper Pareora Gorge, White Rock River and Nimrod Stream), possibly also Blue Duck Stream and Ophi River)

HABITAT

Lower montane to montane. A riparian species of gorges where it grows on rock outcrops, on cliff faces, within ledges and crevices above fast flowing streams and rivers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large shrubs, branching from the base. Stems hanging or trailing, ascending at tips, naked except near apex, sparingly branched, glabrous, 1-3 m long, and up to 0.5 m tall. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves oblong, ovate, obovate or elliptic, very fleshy-coriaceous, concave, spreading, glaucous, glabrous, amplexicaul to subauriculate, 15-30 × 10-18 mm; apex broadly obtuse; margins never red. Inflorescence a 12-60-flowered raceme; peduncle glabrous, 20-30 mm. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels glandular/eglandular-hairy, 2-5 mm. Bracts narrow-lanceolate, 2-4 mm, glabrous or minutely ciliolate. Calyx glabrous or minutely ciliolate, lobes lanceolate or narrowly oblong, acute or subacute, 2 mm. Corolla white, tube exceeding calyx, lobes narrow. Anthers purple. Capsule broadly angustiseptate, latiseptate or turgid, ellipsoid, emarginate or strongly didymous, glabrous, dark brown, about 3.5-5.0 × 2.5-3.5 mm, 1.5-2.8 mm thick, loculicidal split extending ½-way to base



SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to *Veronica amplexicaulis* from which it is distinguished by its much longer, widely spreading stems, much larger leaves, glabrous peduncles, and consistently pedicellate flowers

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

December - October

LIFE CYCLE

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from cuttings and fresh seed. Prefers a sunny site and should be planted in a free draining soil. Dislikes humidity

THREATS

Veronica pareora has a naturally sparse distribution and it was never common within its few known habitats. Prior to 2012, it had been assessed as At Risk – Naturally Uncommon but by 2012 decline in the population was evident and by 2017 the extent and rate of decline warranted its assessment as Threatened – Nationally Critical. Browsing animals are thought to be significant agents of the decline of *V. pareora*.

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'.

pareora: Named after the Pareora Range, the type locality of this species

WHERE TO BUY

Not Commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (1 August 2006). Description from Garnock-Jones and Molloy (1982)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Molloy, B.P.J. 1982: Polymorphism and the taxonomic status of the *Hebe amplexicaulis* complex (Scrophulariaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 20: 391-399.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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