

Veronica planopetiolata

SYNONYMS

Parahebe muelleri W.R.B.Oliv., *Parahebe palno-petiolata* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) W.R.B.Oliv. var. *plano-petiolata*, *Parahebe planopetiolata* (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson) W.R.B.Oliv.

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica planopetiolata G.Simpson & J.S.Thomson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

PARPLA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 84

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (South Westland, West Otago (Mt Aspiring and Westland National Parks along the main divide); Mt Tyndall; Symmetry Peaks, Eyre Mountains; Fiordland (Mt McPherson; Wapiti Lake))

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine. Inhabiting scree, moraine, fellfield and on cliff faces.



Parahebe planopetiolata. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Harris Mts. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Subshrub, loose cushion or mat-forming subshrub to 50 mm tall. **Stems** brown. **Branches** prostrate. **Branchlets** red-brown. **Vegetative internodes** 1–7 mm long. **Stems** glabrous or sparsely bifariously eglandular-pubescent. **Leaves** erecto-patent to spreading, glabrous except for finely ciliate petioles. **Lamina** oblanceolate, oblong, elliptic, rhomboid, 2–10 × 1–6 mm; adaxial surface glossy, green or dark green; abaxial surface dull, green, pale green or purple. **Leaf hairs** absent. **Apex** obtuse to rounded. **Base** cuneate. **Margin** entire or shallowly crenate, teeth or lobes in 0–3 pairs. **Petiole** 1–5 mm long. **Inflorescence** 1–(2)-flowered, 5–8 mm long at fruiting. **Peduncle** 1–2 mm long, glabrous. **Bracts** paired and opposite, spatulate to obovate, obtuse or subacute, glabrous or basally eglandular ciliate, margins entire. **Rachis** glabrous. **Pedicels** 1–7 mm long, glabrous. **Flowers:** corolla, tube and throat white, pink or violet at anthesis. **Nectar guides** absent. **Calyx** 4–(5)-lobed, 3.5–7.0 mm long, glabrous; lobes oblanceolate, obovate or spatulate, obtuse, margins entire, rarely toothed, glabrous. **Corolla** 7–9 mm diameter, tube 2.0–4.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm wide, lobes glabrous. **Stamen filaments** white, 1.5–2.5 mm long, not narrowed at base. **Anthers** magenta, 1 mm long. **Nectarial disc** minutely ciliolate. **Ovary** ovoid or fusiform, acute or subacute, glabrous, 1 mm long. **Style** 2.5–3.5 mm long. **Capsules** strongly flattened, emarginate or didymous, 3.0–4.0 × 4.0–4.5 mm, glabrous; septicial split extending to base, loculicidal split extending $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ -way to base. **Seeds** ellipsoid or obovoid, pale brown, 0.8–1.0 × 0.5–0.6 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica planopetiolata is allied to *V. zygantha* from which it is distinguished by its more compact growth habit; narrower leaves; sparse or absent stem pubescence—which, if present, is composed of spreading hairs; mostly solitary flowers borne on glabrous pedicels; and the conspicuous presence of stomata on the lower leaf surfaces.

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'.

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 PJ, Lloyd DG. 2003. A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42(2): 181–232. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2004.9512899>.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

MORE INFORMATION

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