

Wahlenbergia akaroa

COMMON NAME

Akaroa harebell

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Campanulaceae

AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia akaroa J.A.Petterson

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 72

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Banks Peninsula

HABITAT

Coastal. Found mainly on steep cliffs where it grows in crevices, and also in associated shrubland, and rough pasture in places free from browsing animals.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Radicant herb, stems branching from the base, somewhat fleshy and brittle, the upper 2/3 of the plant forming a many-flowered much branched multiple panicle. Leaves dark green, sessile, rather fleshy, oblong, obovate-spathulate, oblanceolate, lanceolate to linear, margins obscurely dentate to sharply serrate, more or less undulate, up to 40 × 15 mm. Flowers erect on slender pedicels 50-100 mm long, blue-violet, paler outside, sometimes white. Corolla 18-30 mm diameter, 10-15 mm long, subrotate, broad-petalled, tube saucer shaped, 1 × 5 to 1.5 × 6.0 mm, lobes curving up before spreading, broadly oblanceolate, acute, separate at base, touching or overlapping at widest point, 8 × 5 to 14 × 6 mm. Style thickened and blue at top. Calyx lobes glabrous, 2 × 1 to 4.0 × 1.5 mm, triangular, erect or spreading. Capsules glabrous, 5 × 3 to 6 × 4 mm, obconic with protruding valves. Seeds 0.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other radicate New Zealand Wahlenbergia Roth by the very large (20-35 mm diameter) pale blue-violet sub-rotate flowers. Aside from the chromosome number this species is indistinguishable from the Australia *W. planiflora* P.J.Sm.



Ex cult Percy Scenic. December. Photographer: Gillian M. Crowcroft, Licence: All rights reserved.

FLOWERING

October - April

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

FRUITING

November - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. A beautiful plant that responds well to pot cultivation and is ideal for a sunny site in a rockery. Reasonably drought tolerant. prefers a free draining soil.

THREATS

Accessible plants are at risk from browsing animals. Otherwise this species is abundant within its cliff habitat. It is only listed because it is a narrow range, naturally uncommon endemic.

ETYMOLOGY

wahlenbergia: Named in honour of Wahlenberg, a Swedish botanist and author of *A Botany of Lapland*.

akaroa: From Akaroa, New Zealand

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 12 June 2007. Description from Petterson (1997).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Petterson, J.A. 1997: Revision of the genus *Wahlenbergia* (Campanulaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(1): 9-54.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-akaroa/>