

# Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. tararua



## COMMON NAME

Tararua harebell

## SYNONYMS

None.

## FAMILY

Campanulaceae

## AUTHORITY

Wahlenbergia pygmaea subsp. tararua J.A.Pett.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 36

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island. Known only from a few sites in the southern Tararua Ranges.

## HABITAT

Alpine (> 1100 m a.s.l.). In herbfield, and amongst rocks.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial rhizomatous herb, producing numerous diffuse, rosulate tufts of leaves at ground level. Leaves sessile, 10-20 x 3-5 mm, bright green, glossy, glabrescent, oblanceolate, margins flat, with 9-15 prominent teeth. Flowers erect or nodding on short upright stalks 40-100 mm tall. Calyx lobes 3 x 1.5 mm, glabrous, narrowly triangular. Corolla opaque-white, 30 mm diam. and up to 18 mm long, broadly campanulate with tube as broad or broader than long, lobes 9 x 7 mm, spreading, broadly elliptic-lanceolate, acute. Capsule 10 x 6 mm, glabrous, cylindrical to barrel-shaped, seeds ellipsoid, glossy brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

This subspecies is said to differ from the other two *W. pygmaea* Colenso subspecies (subsp. *pygmaea* and subsp. *drucei* J.A.Petterson) by its oblanceolate, flat leaves whose margins are adorned by 9-15 teeth, and by the opaque white flowers. It is the only entity within *W. pygmaea* known from the Tararua Ranges. However, the foliage distinctions are seen also in *W. pygmaea* s.s. This taxon warrants further critical study.

## FLOWERING

December - May

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

January - June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from tip cuttings and the division of whole plants. Fresh seed should germinate readily.

## THREATS

Indications are that this is a naturally uncommon, range-restricted endemic known from only two very small areas.

## ETYMOLOGY

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

**pygmaea**: Tiny

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Some botanists regard this subspecies as part of the wide range of variation exhibited by *W. pygmaea*. Further research into its status, and indeed that of the other New Zealand taxa within the genus is needed. For these reasons NZPCN regard this taxon as Data Deficient.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange 12 June 2007. Description adapted 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: 9-54.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wahlenbergia-pygmaea-subsp-tararua/>