

Veronica stricta var. egmontiana

SYNONYMS

Hebe salicifolia var. *egmontiana* Cockayne nomen nudum, *Hebe stricta* var. *egmontiana* L.B.Moore

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica stricta var. *egmontiana* (L.B.Moore) Garn.-Jones

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HEBEGM

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 80

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing pairs of long narrow pointed thin leaves inhabiting Mt Taranaki. Leaves variable, to 106 mm long, widest at base and tapering towards narrow tip. Leaf bud with no gap at base. Flowers white or pinkish, spike to 16 cm long.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Mount Taranaki (Egmont National Park)).

HABITAT

Common in open sites within montane forest and in subalpine scrub.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).



Mount Taranaki. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 08/02/2014, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Taranki Maunga. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 13/02/2015, Licence: CC BY.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Compact shrub or small tree 2–(4) m tall. **Branchlets** glabrescent. **Stem internodes** shorter than or equal to stem diameter. **Leaf bud** without sinus. **Leaves** spreading, 60–70–(100) mm, dark green, yellow-green or glaucous (not glossy), linear-lanceolate, fleshy, tapering to a narrow acute tip, leaf margin usually entire, or toothed.

Inflorescence lateral, racemose, much longer than leaves, occasionally drooping, bracts and calyx-lobes ciliate otherwise all other inflorescence structures glabrous. **Flowers** white, not obviously scented. **Corolla tube** 6 mm, exceeding calyx, narrow, cylindrical, lobes rounded. **Capsules** < 5 mm long, glabrous, erect to spreading.

SIMILAR TAXA

Veronica stricta var. *egmontiana* and *var. lata* differ from other varieties by their compact branching habit, somewhat firmly fleshy leaves, which may be dull or glossy, shorter stem internodes and tetraploid chromosome number. *Veronica stricta* var. *egmontiana* differs from *var. lata* by the linear-lanceolate, dull green (not glossy) leaves, and generally larger growth form. There are other subtle floral differences which appear to align this variety with *Veronica phormiiphila* (also known as *Hebe paludosa*).

The name *Veronica stricta* var. *egmontiana* is here used in the sense of the original naming author, such that this variety is restricted to Mt Egmont. However some field botanists feel that those tetraploid plants found on the Central Volcanic Plateau and the greywacke ranges (Kaimanawa and Kaweka Ranges) named *var. lata* should be merged with *var. egmontiana* at species rank. This unpublished opinion has confused the literature as to where *var. egmontiana* actually occurs.

FLOWERING

(July)–August–(October) but flowering can also occur sporadically throughout the year

FRUITING

(September)–November–(January) but seed capsules may be found throughout the year

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and semi hardwood cuttings.

THREATS

No active threats are known. *Veronica stricta* var. *egmontiana* is assessed as 'At Risk – Naturally Uncommon' because its restricted distribution makes it susceptible to new adverse effects, should they arise.

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'.

stricta: From the Latin *strictus* 'upright, stiff'

egmontiana: Of Mount Egmont

WHERE TO BUY

Not commonly cultivated. Occasional available from garden centres. An attractive plant, worthy of species rank.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2005). Description based on Allan (1961)—see also Bayly & Kellow (2006)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsida, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

Bayly MJ, Kellow AV. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press, Wellington, NZ. 388 p.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stricta-var-egmontiana/>