



Wahlenbergia cartilaginea

Common Name(s):

Scree Harebell

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Inland Kaikoura and Amuri Ranges from Mt. Tapuaenuku to Mt. Terako and Mt. Percival, and drainage areas of upper Wairau, Waiau, Clarence, and Awatere rivers)

Habitat:

Mostly subalpine to alpine (rarely within montane areas on shingle beds and slips along riversides). Endemic to deep fine greywacke screes and semi-consolidated debris slopes.

Features*:

A perennial deep-rooting rhizomatous scree plant with distant rosettes of very thick, glaucous, (sometimes yellowish) sessile leaves, glabrous or pubescent. Leaves $8 \times 5-25 \times 15$ mm, spatulate, obtuse, narrowed to a thick flat petiole; margins entire, thickened, cartilaginous. Scapes 20-30 mm long, stout, glaucous, with 1-3 small bracts, usually simple and stiff. Flower insect-pollinated, c.12 mm long, 8-12 mm diameter, lilac or white, scented. Corolla broadly funnel-shaped, 5-partite, tube $c.5 \times 6$ mm, lobes $c.7 \times 5$ mm, enclosed within the large calyx lobes which are thick and coriaceous, glabrous, linear-oblong, obtuse, 6×2 to 10×3 mm. Capsule glabrous, often glaucous, globose to broadly turbinate, $c.8 \times 8$ to 10×10 mm. Seeds larger than in other species, 1 mm long, ellipsoid, glossy brown when mature.

Flowering:

December - January

Fruiting:

January - March

Threats:

A naturally uncommon, narrow range endemic that is sparsely distributed over a wide area of scree in eastern Marlborough. Although not considered threatened, some populations suffer from browsing caused by sheep, goats, rabbits hares and other livestock.

*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.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=702



Caption: L Tennyson, Canterbury; in scree

Photographer: Pat Enright



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