



Wahlenbergia matthewsii

Common Name(s):

Rock harebell, Matthew's harebell

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island, Marlborough, Kaikoura Coast from the Flaxbourne River to Clarence River mouth and inland on the Chalk Range. Also known from the Pikikiruna Range at Gorge Creek (north-west Nelson)

Habitat:

Confined to calcareous rocks, especially fine grained limestone. Coastal to montane (0 - 800 m a.s.l.), and mainly restricted to gorges and steep cliffs. Less commonly found growing in boulder falls and on sparsely vegetated terraces.

Features*:

Perennial, erect or spreading subshrub up to 300 mm tall. Tap root fleshy, white, soon developing rhizomes. Stems arising from base, initially brownish-white, 2-3 mm diameter, soon purple-red to purple, glabrous, branching at the top into 2 or more almost naked scapes. Leaves crowded on stems, 10 x 1 to 50 x 3 mm, dark green, linear, glabrous, margins entire or distantly, finely toothed, sometimes recurved. Scapes 100-150 mm long, simple or branched again, bearing a few, distant, narrow linear bracts 5-15 mm long. Inflorescence, terminal, pedunculate. Calyx glabrous, 4-5 x 1 mm, linear-triangular. Flowers pale blue to pale blue-lilac with white zoning and deeper blue or violet veins, or completely white; corolla 20-40 mm diameter, deeply campanulate with tube 7 x 5 to 9 x 6 mm, lobes spreading, 10 x 6 - 20 x 8 mm, ovate-lanceolate. Anthers linear, 4 mm long, style equalling corolla tube, stigma usually 2-lobed. Capsule glabrous, 6 x 4 to 12 x 6 mm long, domed obconic. Seeds 0.5 mm long.

Flowering:

December - April

Fruiting:

January - April

Threats:

Abundant within its Marlborough range but rather uncommon in north-west Nelson. Browse by animals where it is accessible but otherwise very common and not unduly threatened. This species is listed mainly because it is a narrow-range endemic.

*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=703



Caption: *Wahlenbergia matthewsii*
Photographer: Melissa Hutchison



Caption: In cultivation ex Kaikoura.
Feb 2007.
Photographer: Robyn Smith