

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Photographer Richard Hartland, Brisbane Ranges, Vic



Flowering stems. Photographer Don Wood, Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens north of Murrumbidgee



Flowers and leaves. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Royal Botanic Gardens Mt Annan, near Campbelltown



Line drawings. d. flowering and seeding branch; seed case. S Clark, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Digger's speedwell

Family

Plantaginaceae

Where found

Forest, woodland, heath, alpine **herbfields**, rocky slopes and screes, and stream banks and drainage lines. Widespread. Rarely coastal.

Notes

Woody herb or **shrub** to 1.2 m high or sprawling, dying back to the base after each flowering season. Shoots sometimes overwinter. Hairless and often **glaucous**. Several stems arise from a narrow woody rootstock or from clumps originating in short **rhizomes**. Leaves opposite each other, usually 1.5–6 cm long, 7–40 mm wide, bases joined together and completely surrounding the stem, or **cordate** or wedge-shaped, margins **entire** or finely scalloped or with up to about 10 pairs of shallow or coarse pointed teeth, tips pointed. Flowers blue or purplish/violet blue, 5–12 mm long, 9–12 mm in diameter, with a short tube and 4 **spreading** lobes. **Style** and **ovary** hairless. **Stamens** 2. Flower clusters 10–45 cm long, usually 25–70-flowered. Flowering: spring–summer.

Family was Scrophulariaceae.

Was *Parahebe perfoliata*, then *Derwentia perfoliata*.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Veronica-perfoliata> (accessed 8 February, 2021)

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