

Spring flowering Veronica / Speedwells

By Paul Green

I'm including all Veronica / Speedwells that flower during March & April.

There are specimens of all on the table for you to look at.

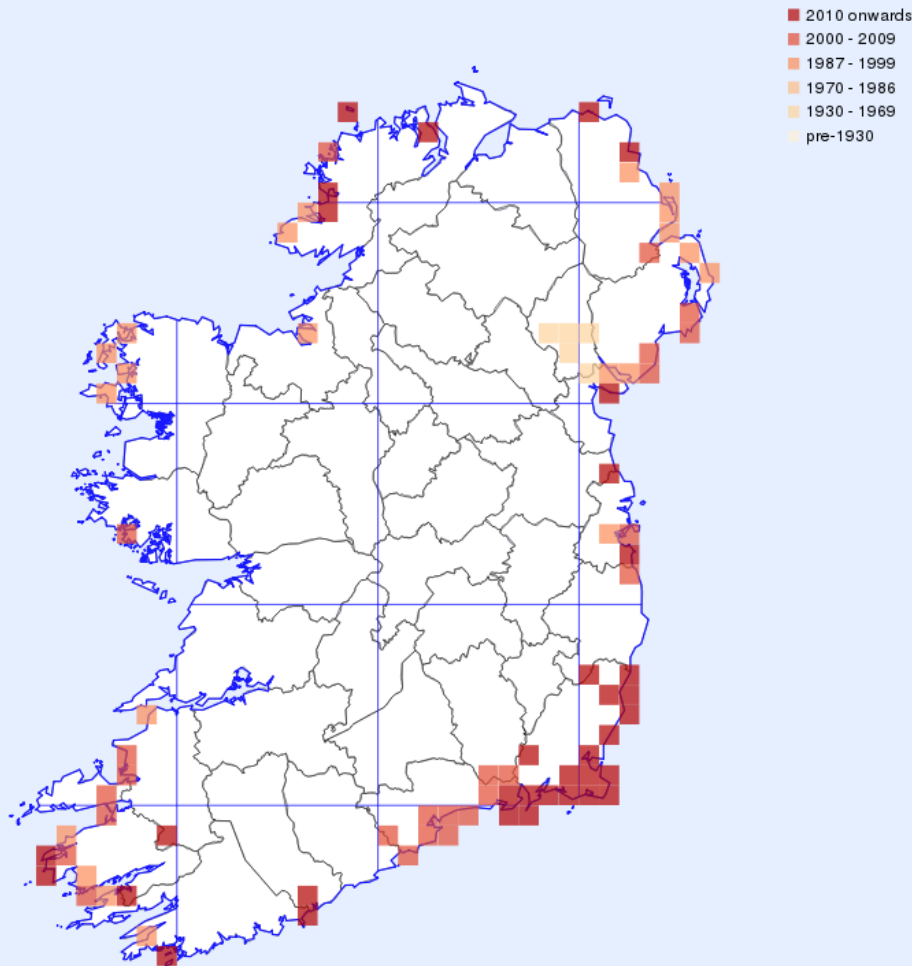
A few years ago it was decided Hebe should become Veronica.



**Veronica x franciscana
(Hedge Veronica)**

Flowers all year round

Veronica x franciscana (Hedge Veronica)



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Hedge Veronica is a garden shrub that has become well established on coastal sea-cliffs and on coastal walls.

Can be an invasive species.

All the maps used in this talk were downloaded from the BSBI DDb.



**ID books will ask in the key
does your shrub Veronica have
a leaf-bud sinus.**

A sinus is a stalk.

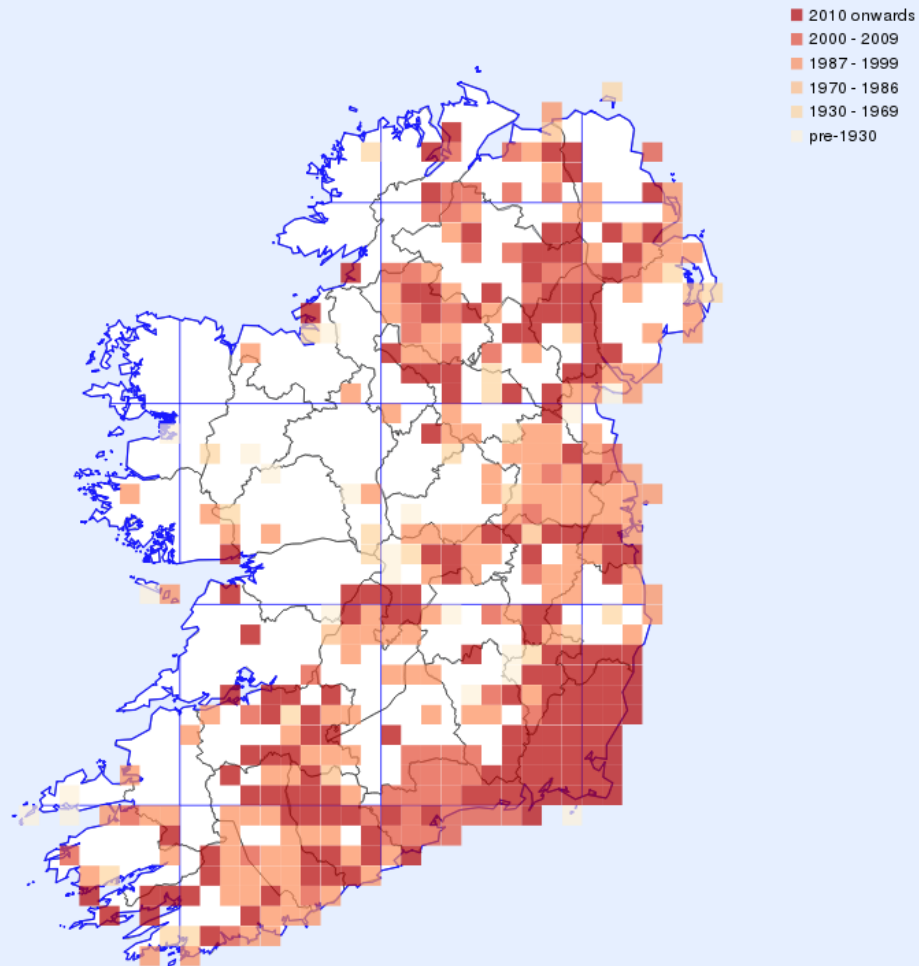
**There are many other shrub
Veronica, very few are
established in the wild.**

Onto the real Veronica / Speedwells

Starting with the over wintering annuals.

**The leaves appearing in the autumn and flower in the
spring.**

Veronica hederifolia (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)

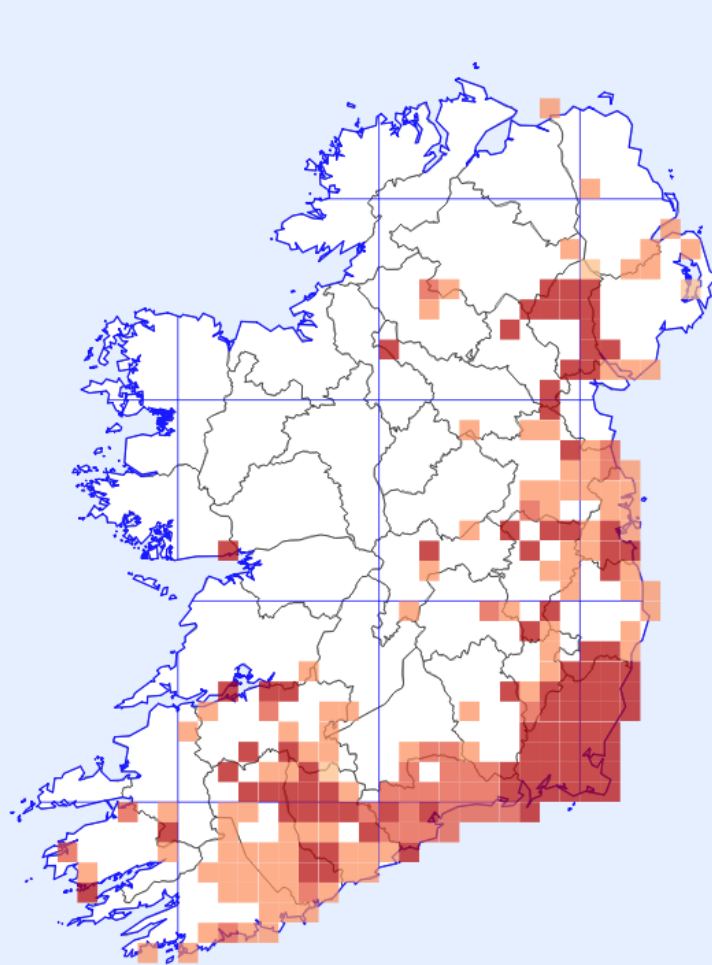


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Ivy-leaved Speedwell is common over much of Ireland. Often found on road banks and waste ground. Also along wooded river banks.

There are two subspecies.

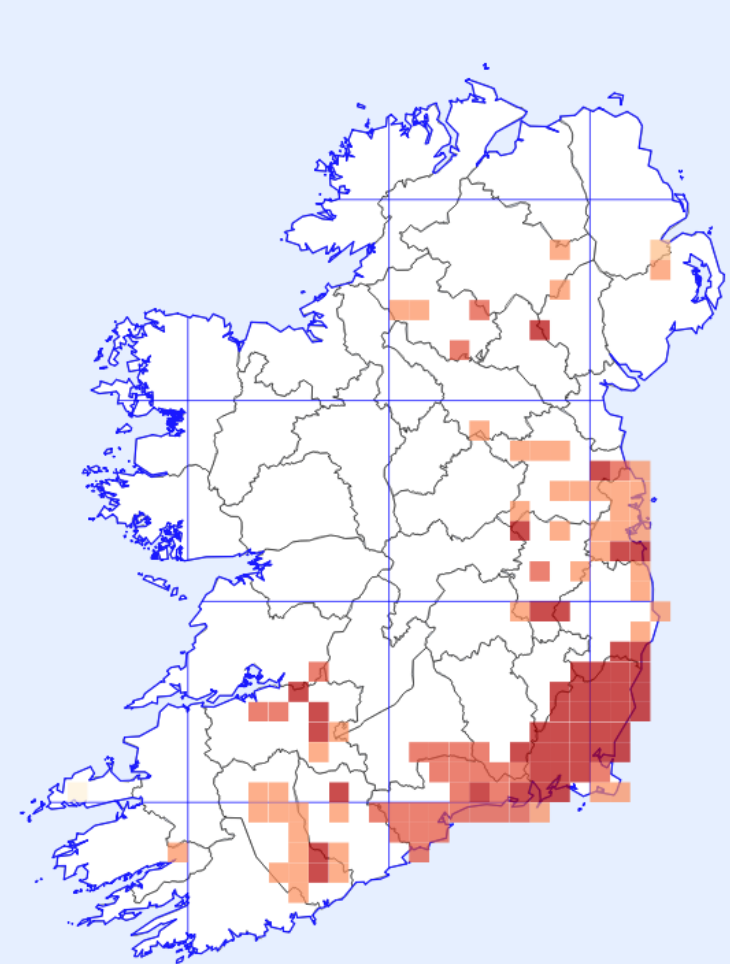
**Veronica hederifolia subsp. hederifolia
(Ivy-leaved Speedwell)**



- 2010 onwards
- 2000 - 2009
- 1987 - 1999
- 1970 - 1986
- 1930 - 1969
- pre-1930

**As you can see the
subspecies are not
recorded very well**

**Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum
(Ivy-leaved Speedwell)**



- 2010 onwards
- 2000 - 2009
- 1987 - 1999
- 1970 - 1986
- 1930 - 1969
- pre-1930

Veronica hederifolia subsp. hederifolia (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)

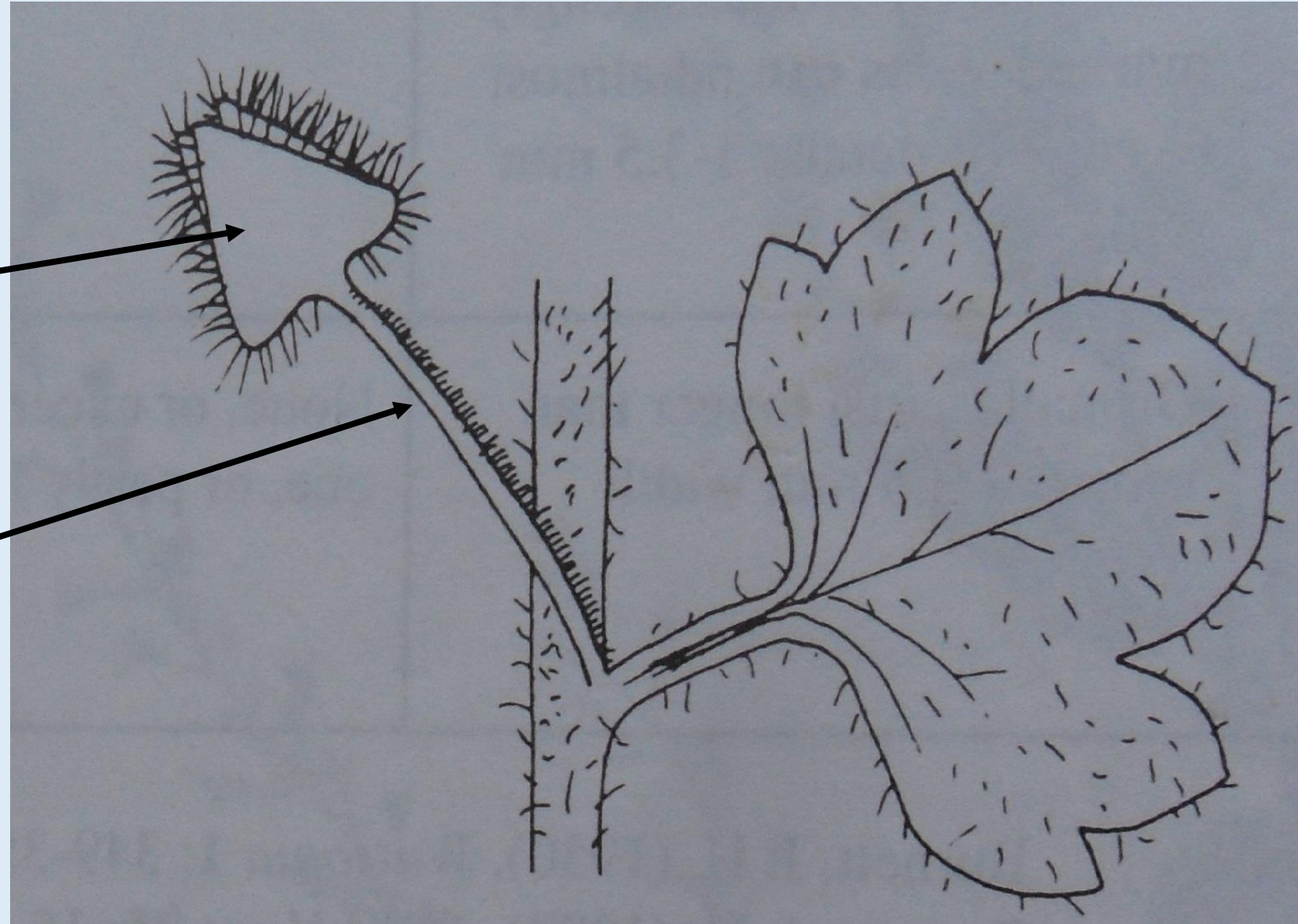


**Petals dark blue. Anthers
dark blue.**

Veronica hederifolia subsp. hederifolia (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)

No hairs on face of calyx

Flower stalk has a single line
of hairs.



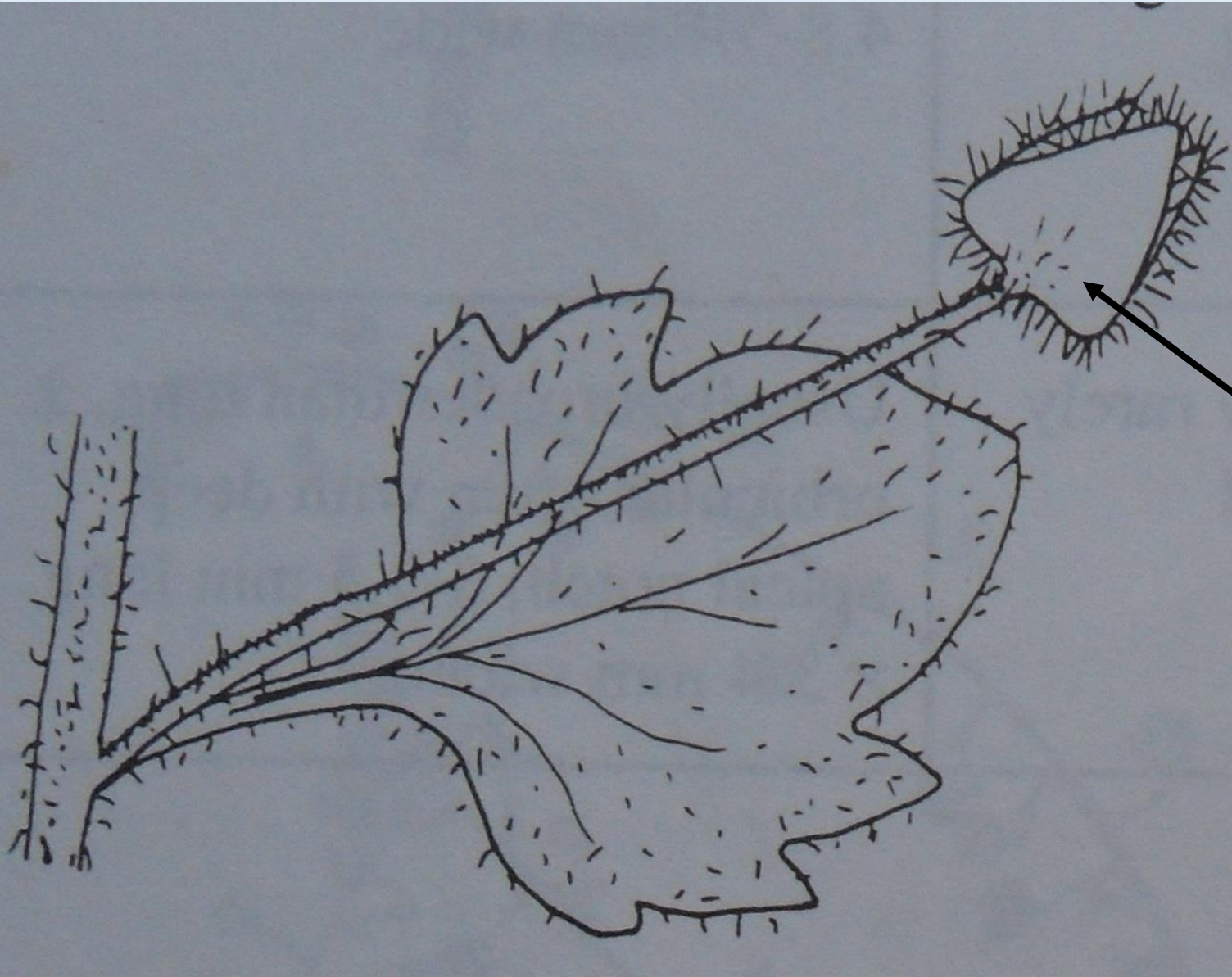
Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)



Petals a whitish pale blue.

Anthers whitish, with a hint of blue.

Veronica hederifolia subsp. lucorum (Ivy-leaved Speedwell)



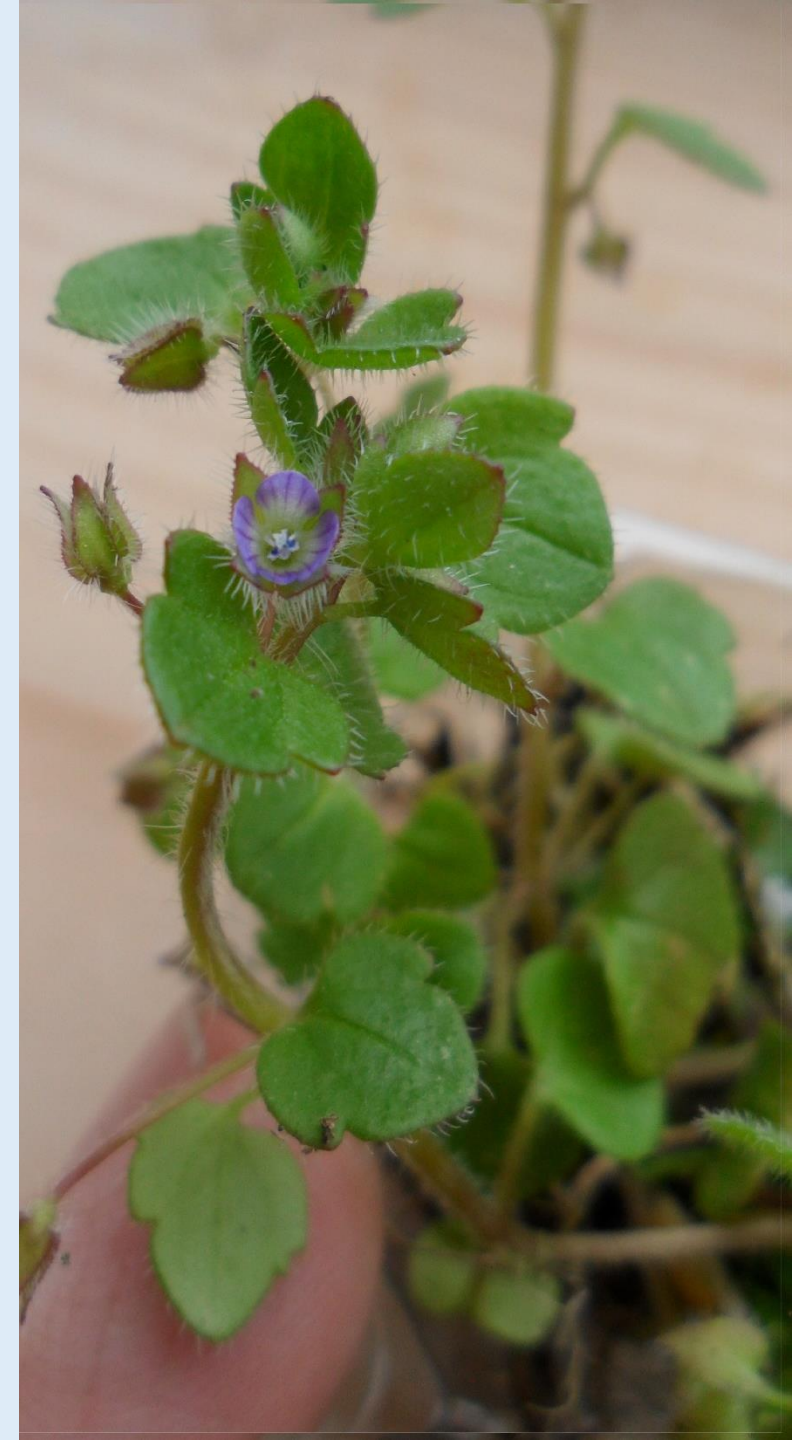
**Flower stem with
hairs scattered all
around.**

**A few hairs on face
of calyx.**



**Left: Subsp. lucorum
has pale green
leaves**

**Right:
Subsp. hederifolia
has darker green
leaves**



Veronica crista-galli (Crested Field-speedwell)



Has very tiny dark blue flowers.

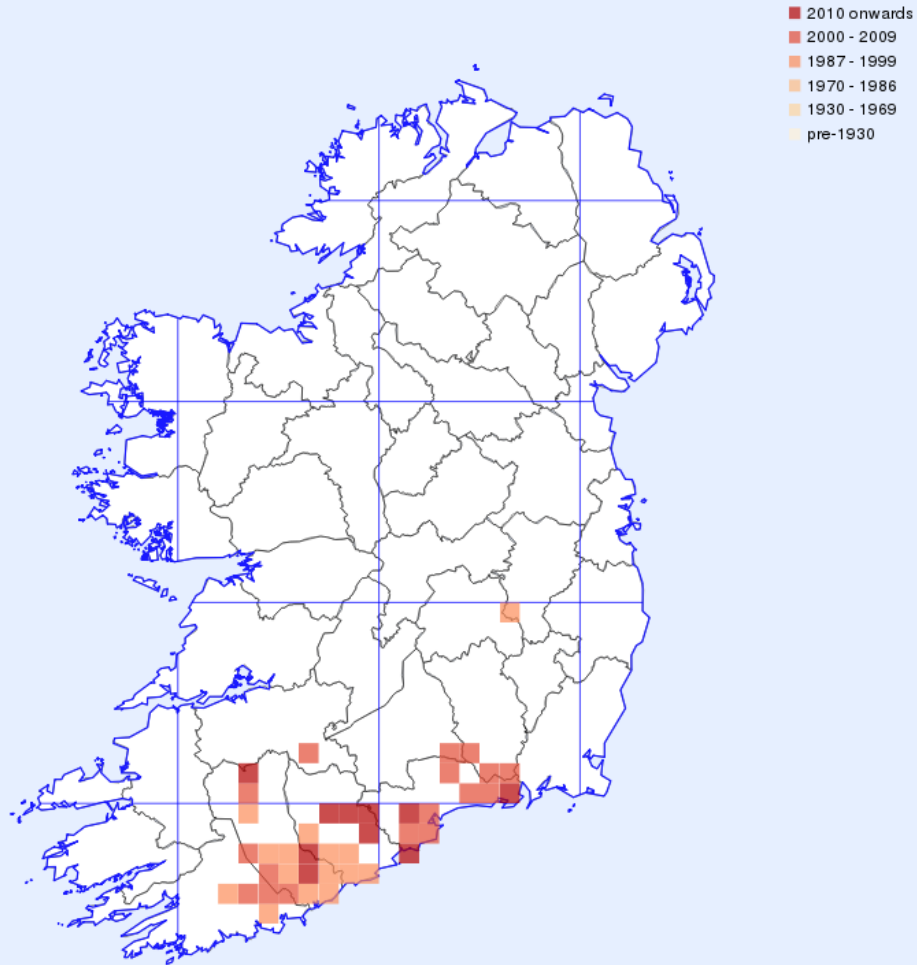
Only Speedwell with 2 opposite calyx rather than 4 as in all other species

The calyx has two points at the top

Non-native



Veronica crista-galli (Crested Field-speedwell)



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Very common along road verges and banks in Cos Cork and Waterford where it can be the dominant species. Known from Cork City since 1904. Flowers February through to May.

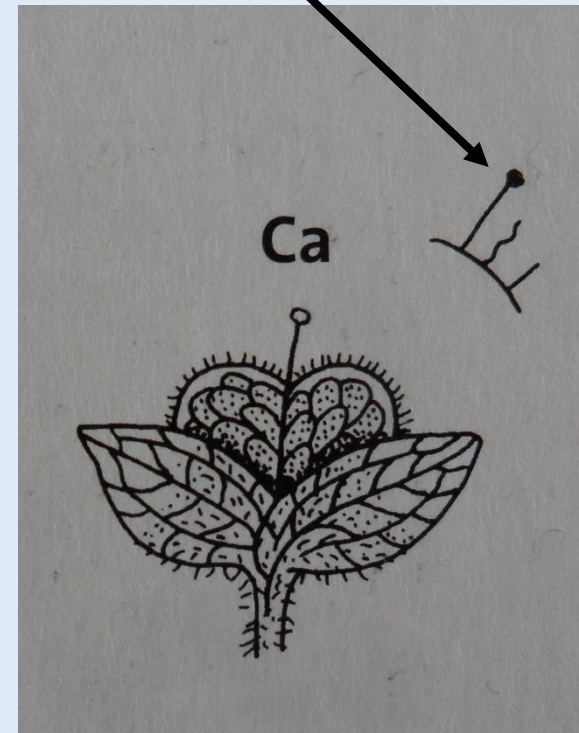


Veronica polita (Grey Field-speedwell)

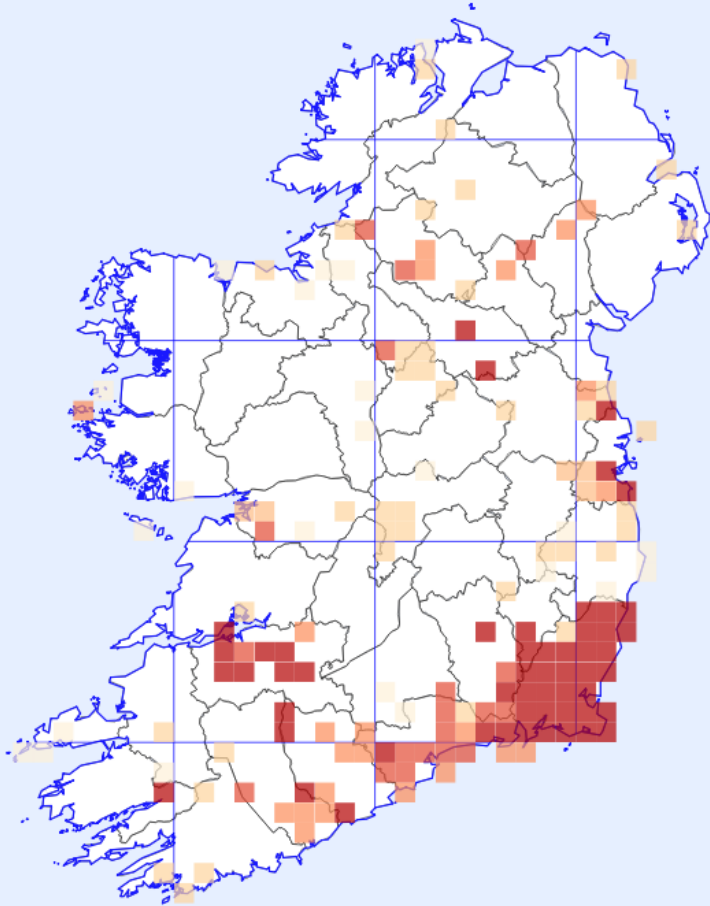


Petals dark blue. Leaves a dirty green

Hairs on capsule – some with sticky glands, some without. Flower stalk shorter than leaf



Veronica polita (Grey Field-speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica polita (Grey Field-speedwell)

A weed of gardens & cultivated ground, on disturbed ground, on road verges, on gravel paths. Often seen on graves of churchyards and cemeteries.

Said to be declining – this statement doesn't seem true for Wexford.

Flowers all year round.

Veronica agrestis (Green Field-speedwell)

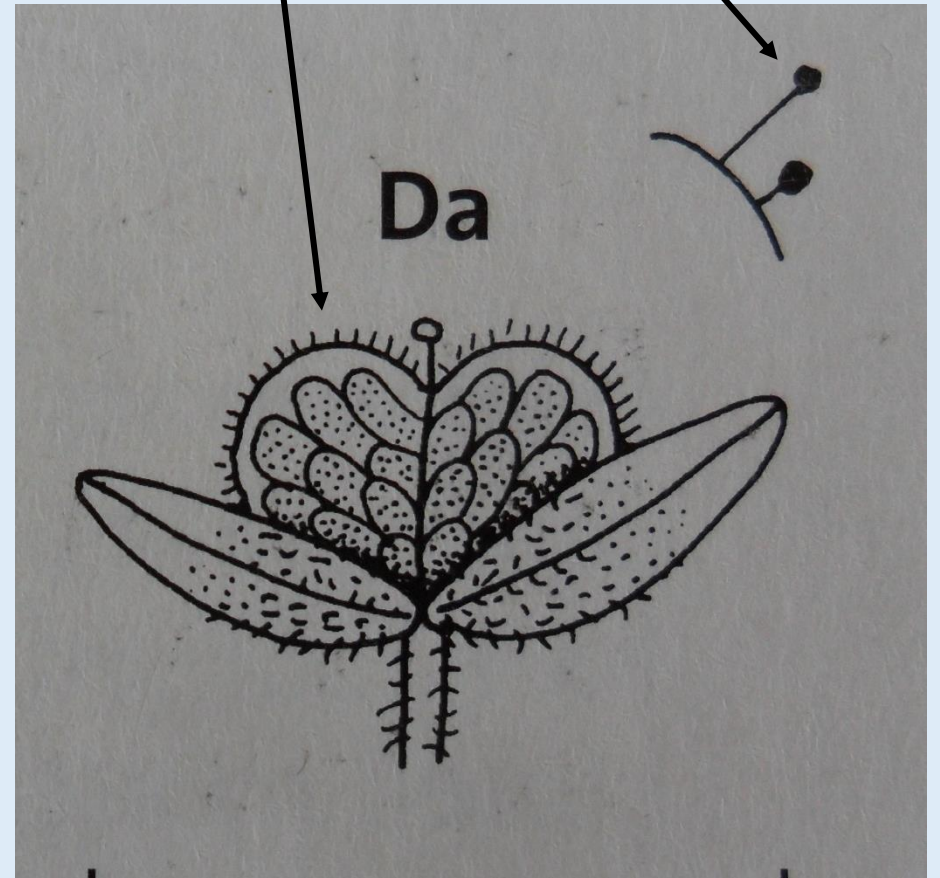


Whole plant green. Flower stalk shorter than leaf.

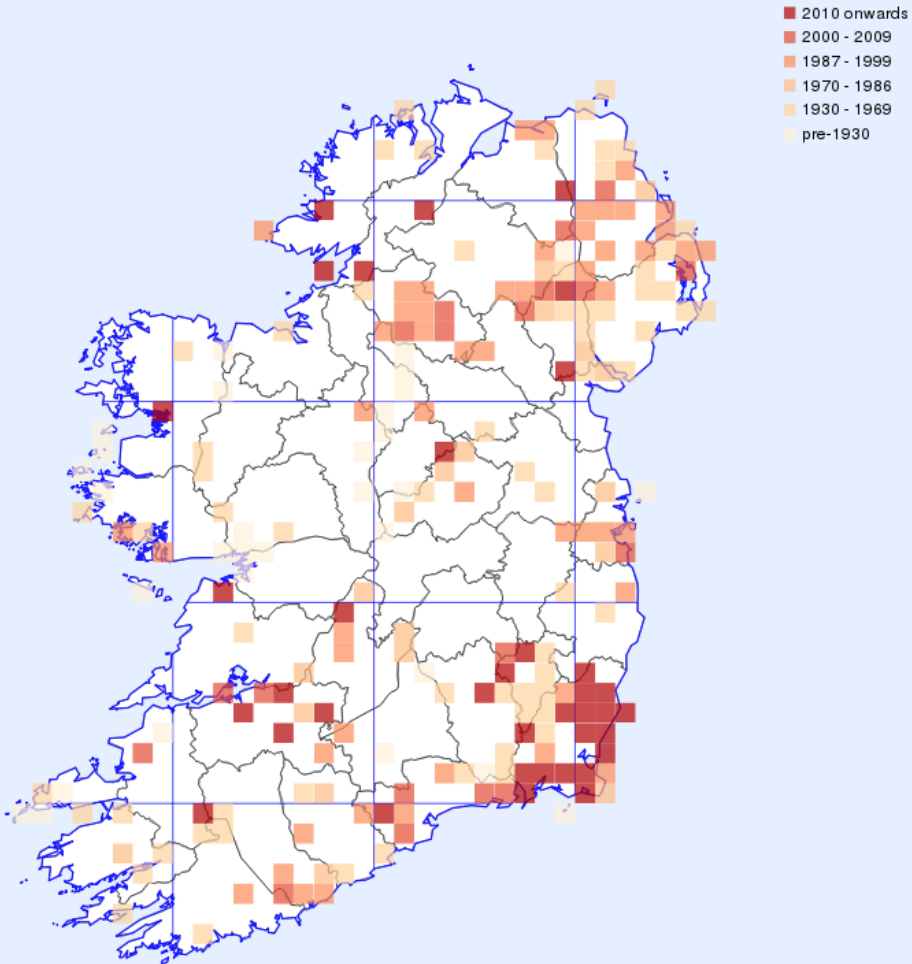
All books give flowers blue as in Zoe's photo. Nearly all Green Field-speedwells I have seen in Ireland have pure white flowers



All hairs on capsules with sticky glands



Veronica agrestis (Green Field-speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica agrestis (Green Field-speedwell)

Scattered over Ireland, never common.

A weed of cultivation and gardens, on gravel paths, on disturbed ground and rocky outcrops.

Flowers all year round.

Have seen on rocky outcrops by Clondagoff Castle , Co. Galway and St John's Point, Co. Donegal.

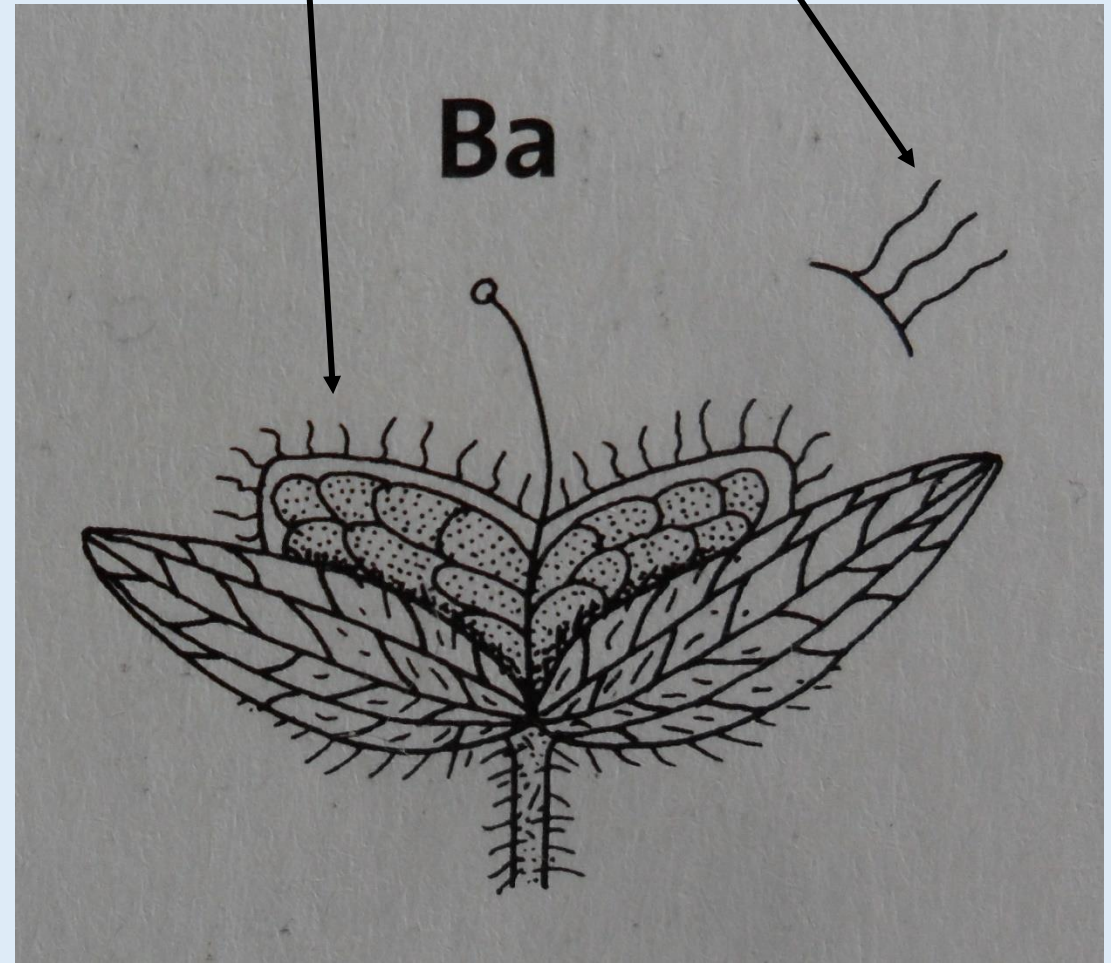
Veronica persica (Common Field-speedwell)



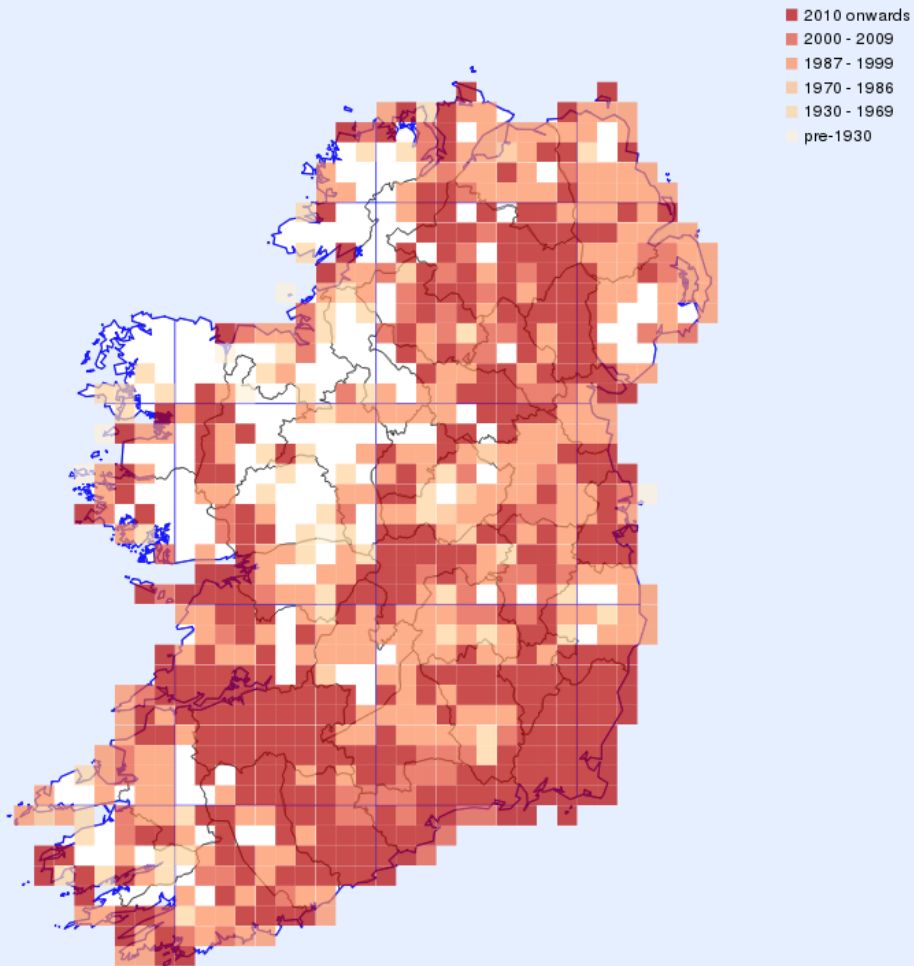
Flower stalk much longer than leaf.

Flowers all year round.

Hairs on capsule without any sticky glands.



Veronica persica (Common Field-speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica persica (Common Field-speedwell)

First recorded from Ireland in Cork around 1845.

Now very common in manmade habitats.

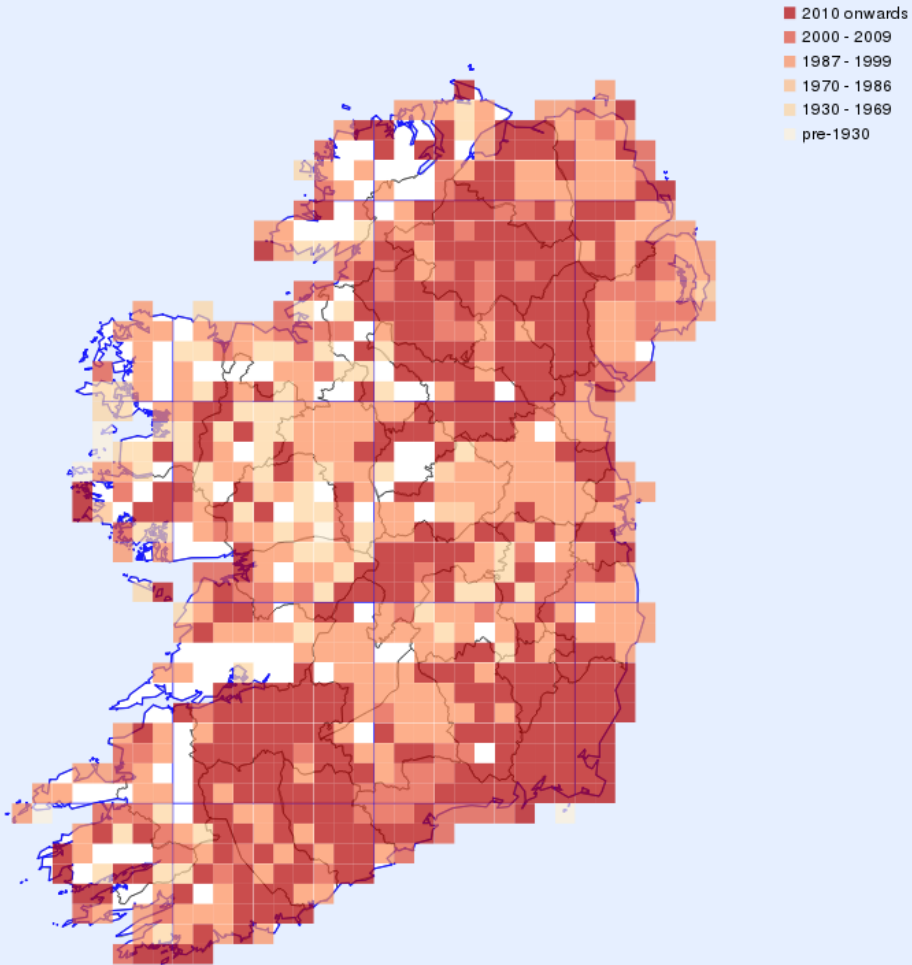
Veronica arvensis (Wall Speedwell)

Flowers dark blue, very small.

Leaves more or less stalk-less



Veronica arvensis (Wall Speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica arvensis (Wall Speedwell)

Common over most of Ireland. Usually in manmade habitats.

Has just started flowering. In the milder parts of the country it will flower all year round.

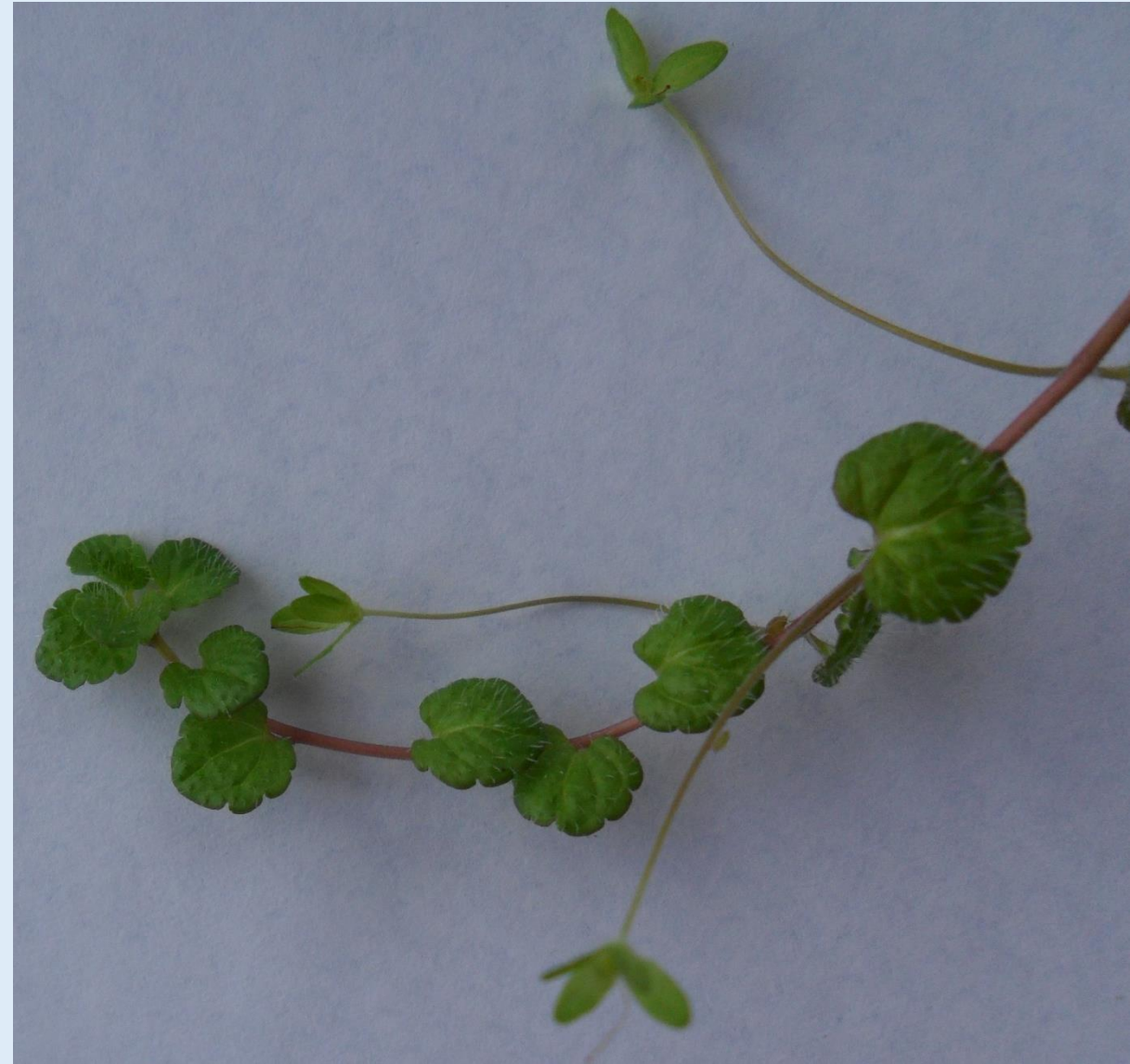
Perennial Veronica / Speedwell

Every green all year round

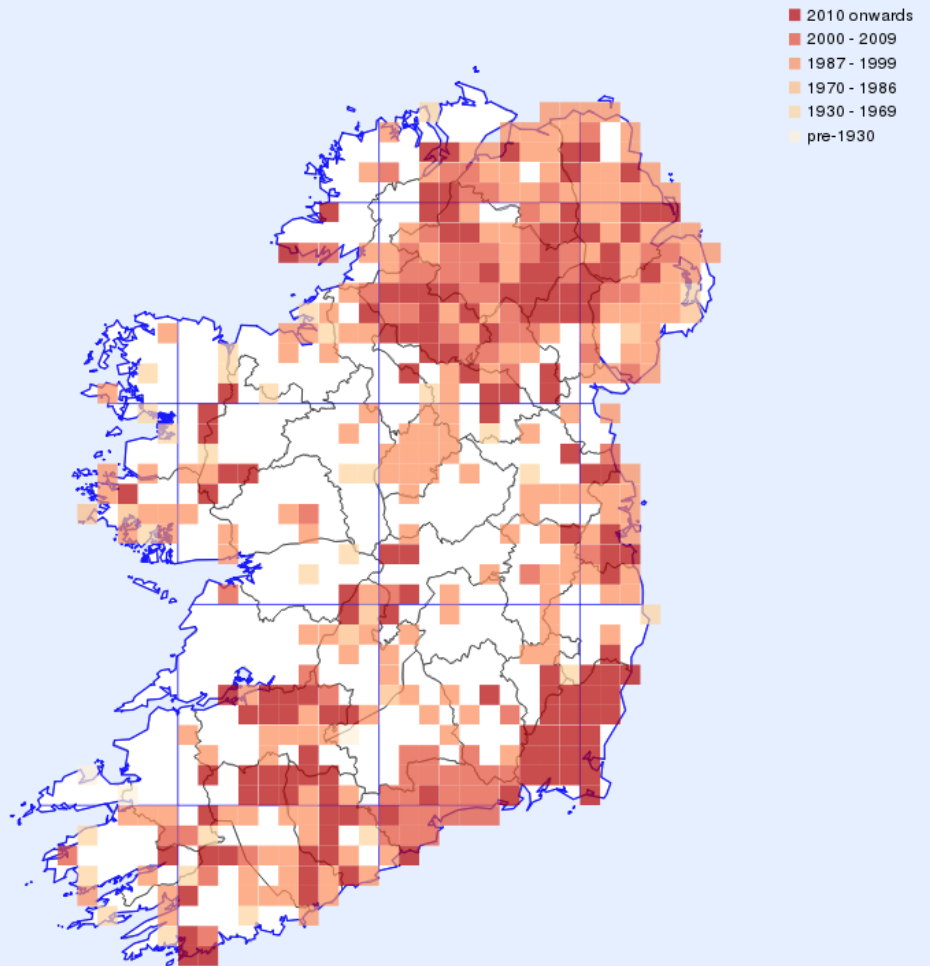
Veronica filiformis (Slender Speedwell)

Leaves round and kidney shaped.

Flower stalk very long compared with leaves.



Veronica filiformis (Slender Speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica filiformis (Slender Speedwell)

A mat forming plant. Often seen on lawns and mown verges.

Also on native habitats such as river banks.

Does not set seed in Ireland. Spreads by broken of pieces taking root.

First found in Ireland at Ballina, Co. Mayo in 1933.

Has just started flowering.

Veronica chamaedrys (Germander Speedwell)

Flowers are on a spike.

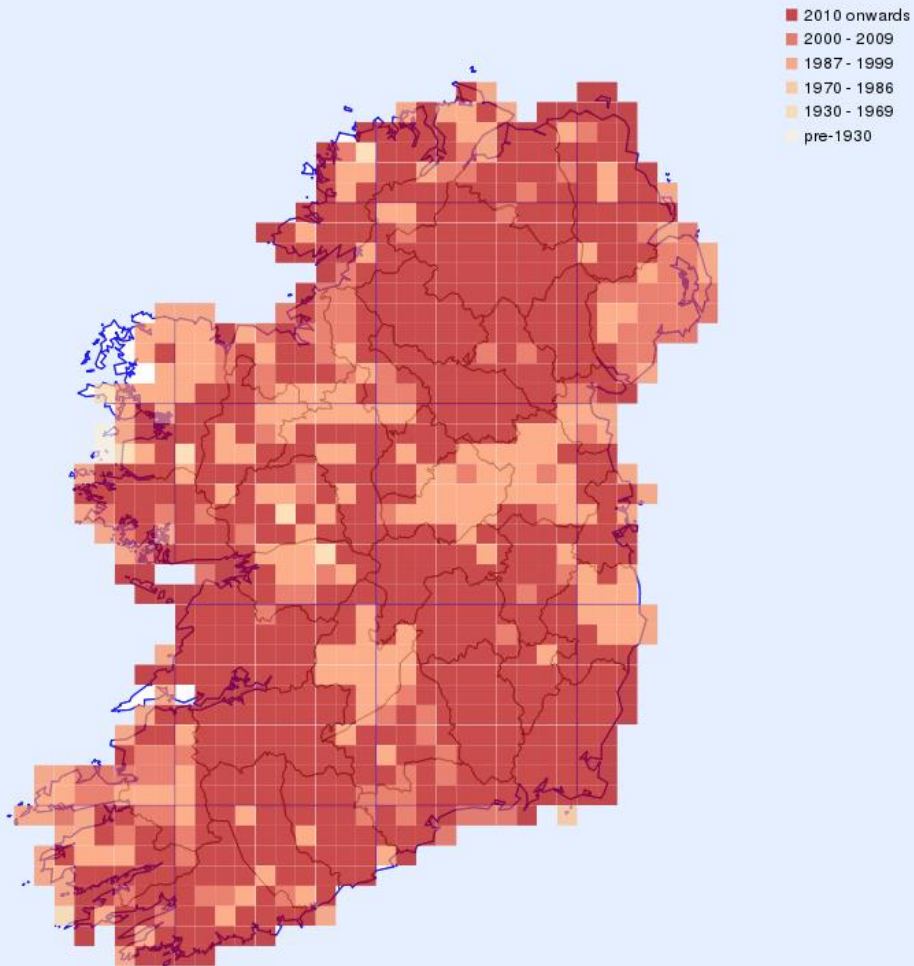
Leaf stalk about 5mm long



Hairs on stem in two rows



Veronica chamaedrys (Germander Speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica chamaedrys (Germander Speedwell)

Common native over the whole of Ireland.

Grows in a wide range of native habitats from ditch banks and open woods.

Has just started flowering.

Veronica montana (Wood Speedwell)

Flowers on a spike.

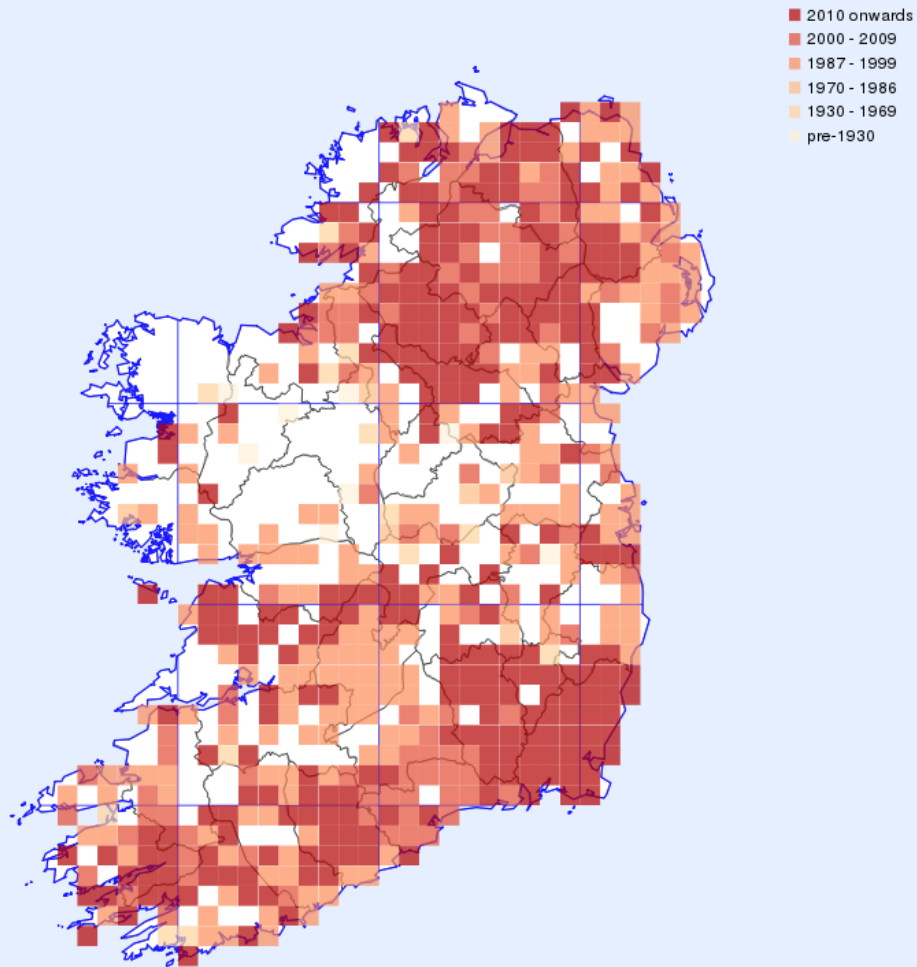
Hairs all round stem. Leaves lime green. Leaf stalk 10mm



Zoe Devlin



Veronica montana (Wood Speedwell)



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Veronica montana (Wood Speedwell)

Common native in wooded areas and along wooded rivers. Also sometimes in hedgerows.

Veronica serpyllifolia (Thyme-leaved Speedwell)

Forms a small clump



Flowers on a spike. Petals blue or white

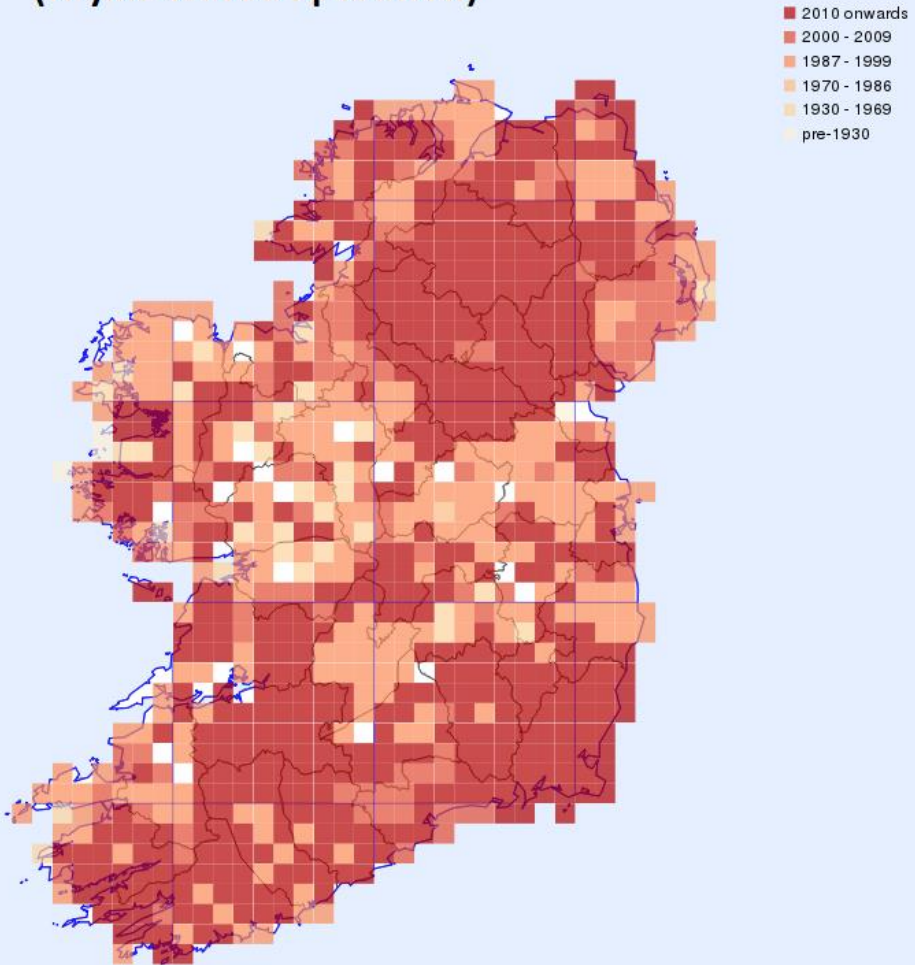


Leaves shiny. No teeth or lobes on leaf margin.



All 3 photos: Zoe Devlin

Veronica serpyllifolia
(Thyme-leaved Speedwell)



© BSBI 2017

Veronica serpyllifolia (Thyme-leaved Speedwell)

A very common native species. Often found in field gateways.

Has just started flowering

**I would like to thank Zoe Devlin for the use of the photos.
These can be seen in more detail on Zoe's website:**

Wild Flowers of Ireland.

<http://www.wildflowersofireland.net>

Thankyou for listening.