



Veronica cheesemanii subsp. *cheesemanii*

Common Name(s):

Cheesemans Parahebe, Cheesemans Speedwell

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand. South Island (North-West Nelson, Richmond Range, Raglan Range, and Nelson Lakes National Park.

Habitat:

Alpine. A species of fine-grained, stable screes and their associated grit soils.

Features*:

Cushion-forming subshrub, 10-40 mm tall. Stem and branchlets brown. Branches prostrate to ascending. Vegetative internodes 1-12 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent. Leaves erect to erecto-patent or recurved (in distal portion). Lamina ovate, deltoid, spatulate, or rhomboid, 2-5 × 2-3 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Under surface of leaves dull bronze green or dark green. Leaf hairs sparse, numerous or absent, or unicellular eglandular, uniseriate (0.5-1.0 mm long on petioles). Apex subacute to obtuse. Base cuneate. Margin minutely papillate or denticulate, pinnatifid, to bipinnatifid on basal lobes. Marginal teeth or lobes in 2-5 pairs. Petiole 3-6 mm long. Inflorescence 1-2(-3)-flowered, 2-10 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels dense. Peduncle 0-20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Rachis 0-20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Bracts paired, opposite, obtuse or subacute, eglandular-hairy above and eglandular-hairy below, spatulate. Bract margins shallowly to deeply lobed. Pedicels patent at anthesis, straight at fruiting, 0-2 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Flowers: Calyx 4(-5)-lobed, 4-7 mm long, lobes oblanceolate, oblong, spatulate, subacute to obtuse. Calyx hairs on both abaxial and adaxial surfaces, eglandular. Calyx lobe margins pinnatifid. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides absent. Corolla throat same colour as lobes. Corolla 4-7 mm diameter. Corolla tube 3.5-7.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm, glabrous or shortly hairy outside. Corolla lobes glabrous or pubescent below. Posterior corolla lobe circular, elliptic or deltoid, obtuse, emarginate or divided in two, 2-3 × 2-4 mm. Lateral corolla lobes circular or elliptic, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 2-4 × 2-4 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic, obtuse, 2.0-3.0 × 1.5-2.5 mm. Stamen filaments white, 1.5-2.0 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers pink to magenta, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid &/or globose, obtuse, eglandular hairy, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Style 1.5-2.5 mm long. Capsules strongly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3-4 × 3-4 mm, 2-3 mm thick, hairy. Hairs eglandular. Septicidal split of capsule extending 1/3 way to base (split to base in old capsules). Loculicidal split of capsule extending 3/4 way to base or to base. Seeds ellipsoid to obovoid, pale brown to dark brown, 0.6-1.1 × 0.5-0.7 mm.

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 181-232

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1088



Caption: Mt Peel, Nelson, January
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth