



Veronica zygantha

Common Name(s):

Lax-flowered Parahebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island: (Fiordland (Freeman Burn, Fowler Pass, Doon River,

Habitat:

Subalpine to alpine. Inhabiting screes, talus slopes and moraines often in fine sandy debris accumulated among boulders. Often on east-facing boulder screes and talus slopes below cliffs.

Features*:

Subshrub (softly woody) to 150 mm tall. Stems dark brown or grey. Branches decumbent to ascending. Branchlets brown to red-brown. Vegetative internodes 1-20 mm long. Stems uniformly eglandular-pubescent to glandular puberulent. Leaves erectopatent to spreading. Lamina elliptic, orbicular or spatulate, 3-10 × 2-9 mm. Upper surface of leaves glossy, bright green; under surface of leaves dull, pale green. Leaf hairs absent. Apex rounded or truncate. Base cuneate. Margin glabrous, crenate or bluntly serrate; teeth or lobes in 0-5 pairs. Petiole 3-5 mm long. Inflorescence 1(-3)-flowered, 8-15 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels moderately dense. Eglandular hairs of inflorescence, white, antrorse (curved). Peduncle 1-12 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Rachis 0-20 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Bracts alternate obtuse, glabrous, spatulate, margins entire. Pedicels 1-3 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Flowers white at anthesis, throat white or yellow. Nectar guides absent. Calyx 4-lobed, 4-8 mm long, glabrous, lobes oblanceolate to obovate, subacute to obtuse, margins entire, glabrous. Corolla 5-6 mm diameter, tube 1.5-3.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm wide, glabrous. Stamen filaments white, 0.5-2.0 mm long. Anthers purple, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary globose, obtuse, glabrous, 1-2 mm long. Style 0.5-3.0 mm long. Capsules strongly flattened, didymous, 4-5 × 3.5-5.0 mm, 1.5-2 mm thick, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base; loculicidal split extending 1/2-way to base. Seeds ellipsoid, pale brown, 1.0-1.3 × 0.6-0.7 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=1093



Caption: Mount Burns

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Mt Burns, January

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth