



Veronica melanocaulon

Common Name(s):

Martins Parahebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough (Seaward Kaikoura Mountains from Waima River to Mt Terako and Mason River; Inland Kaikoura Mountains; Wairau Mountains (Spray River)).

Habitat:

Lowland to montane. Mostly riparian, growing in gorges and along braided or boulder-choked rivers and stream banks. Also on mostly shaded limestone and greywacke cliffs

Features*:

Subshrub to 250 mm tall. Stems grey. Branches prostrate to decumbent. Branchlets red-brown to dark purplish. Vegetative internodes 5–40 mm long. Stems bifariously eglandular-pubescent or glabrous. Leaves spreading to recurved. Lamina oblanceolate, obovate, elliptic, 5–35 × 2–15 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull, green, under surface of leaves dull, pale green. Leaf hairs dense, along midrib above and on petiole (upper surface only), eglandular. Apex subacute, obtuse, rounded. Base cuneate. Margin glabrous, serrate, teeth or lobes in 1–5 pairs. Petiole 1–4 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 6–30-flowered, unbranched, 70–210 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels moderately dense, or glabrous. Peduncle 35–100 mm long, glabrous or eglandular-pubescent (rarely) or glandular-pubescent. Rachis 35–110 mm long, eglandular-pubescent, glandular-pubescent or glabrous. Bracts alternate, linear to lanceolate, obtuse to acute, margins entire, glandular ciliate or glabrous. Pedicels 6–17 mm long, glandular-pubescent, eglandular-pubescent or glabrous. Flowers white or mauve at anthesis; nectar guides evident or obscure, magenta or pink, confined to posterior corolla lobe, colour ring magenta or pink, corolla throat yellow. Calyx 4(–5) lobed, 2.5–4.5 mm long, lobes lanceolate, elliptic or oblanceolate, acuminate to subacute, margins entire, glabrous or with glandular hairs on margins only. Corolla 7–13 mm diameter; tube 1.0–1.5 × 1.0–1.5 mm, hairy inside, hairs short. Stamen filaments white, 3.5–4 mm long, narrowed at base. Anthers pink or mauve, 1.0–1.1 mm long. Nectarial disc sparsely ciliate or glabrous. Ovary globose, subacute, glabrous, 1.0–1.3 mm long. Style 3.0–5.0 mm long. Capsules weakly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3.0–4.3 × 3.0–4.0 mm, 1.5–1.7 mm thick, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending $\frac{3}{4}$ -way or to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$ -way to base. Seeds ellipsoid or discoid, pale brown to dark brown, 0.7–1.2 × 0.5–1.0 mm

Flowering:

October - March

Fruiting:

November - September

Threats:

Naturally Uncommon, Range Restricted endemic - locally common but known from only a small number of populations scattered over a large area. No threats have been reported though some of its river habitats are being threatened by invasive weeds.

*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=1096