



Veronica spathulata

Common Name(s):

Parahebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Volcanic Plateau, Kaimanawa, Kaweka, and Ruahine Ranges).

Habitat:

Alpine. Inhabiting lava and scoria fields, screes, and skeletal soil developed on steep, exposed ridges and fellfield

Features*:

Subshrub to 100 mm tall. Stems grey. Branches prostrate to erect. Branchlets brown or red-brown. Vegetative internodes 2-35 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent. Leaves erecto-patent and recurved. Lamina orbicular to rhomboid, 2.0-12.0 × 1.5-12.0 mm. Upper surface of leaves dull green or dark green, under surface of leaves dull green, pale green or purple. Leaf hairs sparse to dense, rarely absent, eglandular. Apex subacute, obtuse, rounded or truncate. Base truncate. Margin glabrous or ciliate-pubescent, crenate or lobed. Marginal teeth or lobes in 1-4 pairs. Petiole 1-11 mm long. Inflorescence racemose, 2-8-flowered, unbranched, 7-45 mm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels dense. Eglandular hairs, of inflorescence white, erecto-patent to antrorse, white. Peduncle 5-30 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Rachis 2-15 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Bracts paired and opposite, spathulate, obtuse or subacute, eglandular-hairy above and eglandular-hairy below. Bract margins shallowly to deeply lobed. Pedicels 1-4 mm long, eglandular-pubescent. Flowers glabrous, white or mauve at anthesis, nectar guides absent. Calyx 4-lobed, 3-6 mm long, lobes oblanceolate or obovate, acute to subacute, margins entire or toothed; calyx hairs eglandular, on margins only or on both surfaces. Corolla (5-)6-8 mm diameter, tube 3.0-4.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm wide; lobes, tube and throat. Posterior corolla lobe circular, obtuse, 3.5-4.0 × 3.5-4.0 mm. Lateral corolla lobes circular or broadly elliptic, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 3.0-4.0 × 3.5-4.5 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic, oblong, obtuse, 3.5-4.0 × 1.5-2.0 mm. Stamen filaments white, 2-3 mm long. Anthers pink or mauve, 0.8-1.0 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary globose, obtuse or emarginate, eglandular hairy, 1.0-1.5 mm long. Style 1.5-2.0 mm long. Capsules strongly flattened, emarginate to didymous, 3.0-4.0 × 3.0-4.5 mm, 1.5-2.0 mm thick, hairy. Hairs eglandular. Septicidal split of capsule extending to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending 1/2-way to base. Seeds ellipsoid or discoid, brown, 1.0-1.5 × 1.0-1.5 mm

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

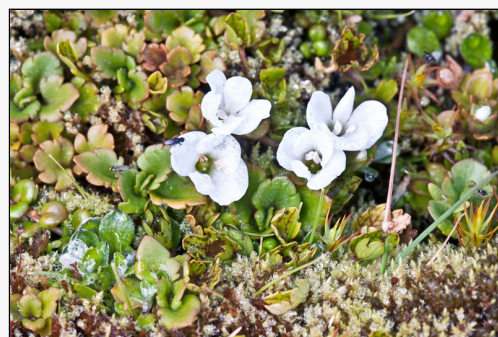
Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

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=1099



Caption: Mount Ruapehu. Feb 2012.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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