



## *Selliera microphylla*

### Common Name(s):

Mountain Selliera

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Central Volcanic Plateau and adjacent mountains). Possibly also the South Island (this requires further investigation - see Similar Species and Taxonomic Notes)

### Habitat:

Montane to alpine. In permanently to seasonally damp, open sites and depressions such as within marginal turf of lake and ponds

### Features\*:

Perennial, ± succulent creeping herb forming matted patches up to 0.2 m in diameter. Stems and branches, 0.7-1.0 mm diameter, white or yellowish, procumbent held near at or just below substrate surface, widely spreading, rooting at nodes yellowish. Leaves, 1-4 borne in a fascicles along stem, alternate, appressed to ground, coriaceous, (± succulent), dark green, glabrous, glossy; petioles 1.2-4.3 mm long, slender flattened; lamina 3-8 × 0.6-1.2 mm, narrowly spatulate, obovate-spatulate, linear-spatulate to linear, base attenuate to truncate, apex acute. Inflorescences single, arising in leaf axils, borne on stout fleshy, bracteate peduncles 1.2-3.6 mm, bracts 0.6-1.1 × 0.2-0.8 mm, narrowly lanceolate, falcate, green, erect; pedicels 1-4 mm long; bracts 0.2-0.7 × 0.1-0.3 mm, subulate-attenuate. Flowers solitary. Calyx persistent, calyx lobes 0.6-1.0 × 0.3-0.8 mm, linear to narrow-triangular, green, distally flushed red, apex acute; corolla 4-6 × 4-10 mm; petals 5 fused in proximal part, inner surface white to pale blue, outer white, pinkish-white to pale red; petal segments 4-6 × 1.0-1.4 mm, lanceolate to narrow-oblong, falcate, acute to acuminate. Ovary 0.8-1.0 mm, green, glabrous. Style purple-red, stigma glabrous, orange brown. Stamens 3, orange-brown. Fruit 2.0-4.1 × 2.0-6.0 mm, obovoid to ovoid, truncate, green. Seeds 1.0-1.8 mm long, broadly ovate, broadly elliptic to almost circular, biconvex, pale orange yellow to pale brown, winged, wing < 1 mm wide, margin irregular, wrinkled, translucent.

### Flowering:

October - April

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 28 June 2012. Description from herbarium material and fresh plants except for the seed description which is modified from Webb & Simpson (2001).

### References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J.; Rolfe, J.R. 2010: New Zealand Indigenous Vascular Plant Checklist. Wellington, New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. 164pp.

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand gymnosperms and dicotyledons. Christchurch, The Caxton Press. 428 p.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1293](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1293)



**Caption:** *Selliera microphylla* - Taruarau

**Photographer:** Nick Singers



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