



## *Veronica societatis*

### **Common Name(s):**

Hebe

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

Threatened - Nationally Critical

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. South Island, to the summit of Mt Murchison., Braeburn Range.

### **Habitat:**

A local component of low sub-alpine herb field dominated by carpet grass (*Chionochloa australis*). So far it has only been found on rather steep, north-east facing slopes

### **Features\*:**

Decumbent subshrub to 300 mm tall. Branches decumbent or ascending and unbranched for (60-)110-240(-370) mm from apex; old stems brown, young green or red-brown. Internodes 2.8-9.7 mm long. Leaf bud about length of mature leaf, sinus broad, and acute. Petiole 1-2 mm. Leaves erect to erecto-patent; lamina elliptic to obovate (5-)9-24(-37) x (2-)4-8.5(-10) mm, glaucous, coriaceous, concave, apex obtuse to subacute, base cuneate. Inflorescences 10-25-flowered, lateral, racemose, unbranched, 15-35 mm long, overtopping subtending leaves. Flowers hermaphrodite. Peduncles 45-70 mm long, pubescent. Bracts with lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above. Pedicels shorter than bracts, suberect at fruiting. Calyx tapered, 2-3.5 mm, 4-lobed; lobes elliptic, subacute to obtuse. Tube 2-2.5 x 1.5 mm, white, funnelform. Corolla lobes elliptic to ovate or obtuse, white. Anthers purple. Capsules pale brown, 3.7-5 x 2.4-3.2 mm.

### **Flowering:**

Unknown - because of the species recent discovery (February 2000) and the fact that it occurs in a relatively remote location, flowering and fruiting times are not yet established

### **Fruiting:**

Unknown - because of the species recent discovery (February 2000) and the fact that it occurs in a relatively remote location, flowering and fruiting times are not yet established

### **Threats:**

Discovered in 2000. Known from just one site where there are 250 adult plants. Although not directly threatened, feral pigs have damaged and in some cases killed plants as they uproot the carpet grass in which this hebe grows. *Veronica societatis* meets the criteria of Nationally Critical because there are so few plants and because of the small area they occupy. It has yet to be found anywhere else.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2006. Description based on Bayly & Kellow (2006).

### **References and further reading:**

Bayly, M.J.; Kellow, A.V. Hebes, identification, classification and biology. Wellington, Te Papa Press

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=19](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=19)