



Veronica albicans

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. South Island - Nelson, from Mt Burnett in the north to the Glasgow Range in the south, and as far east as the Bryant Range

Habitat:

It grows in a range of habitats, usually on rocks (often calcareous), from just above sea-level (e.g. on the banks of the Aorere River) to subalpine and penalpine situations.

Features*:

Openly branched, spreading low or small bushy shrub to 1 m. tall. Branches decumbent or pendent or erect, old stems brown; branchlets green to red-brown, pubescent, hairs bifarious (sometimes restricted to tufts at nodes) or uniform; internodes (1.9-) 2.5-9 (-15.5) mm; leaf decurrencies evident or obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to recurved; lamina oblong or elliptic or ovate or lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, fleshy or coriaceous or subcoriaceous or thin, flat or concave, 11-42 x 3.4-16.3 mm; apex obtuse to acute; base prominently amplexicaul to truncate or cuneate; 2 lateral secondary veins evident at base of fresh leaves; midrib slightly thickened below and depressed to grooved above; margin sometimes cartilaginous, glabrous; upper surface glaucous or glaucescent, dull, with many stomata, glabrous or hairy along midrib (near base); lower surface glaucous or glaucescent. Inflorescences with 15-45 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 1.7-5.1 cm, longer than or about equal to subtending leaves; peduncle 0.4-1.4 (-1.7) cm; rachis 0.7-3.9 cm. Bracts alternate, lanceolate or elliptic or ovate, acute or subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels (0.5-) 0.8- 2.5 (-3.5) mm. Calyx 1.5- 3 (-4) mm; lobes lanceolate or elliptic, acute to subacute. Corolla tube hairy inside or glabrous, (2.5-) 3-6 x 1.2-1.8 mm, cylindric, longer than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate or elliptic (sometimes broadly), obtuse, suberect to recurved, shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments sometimes incurved at apex in bud, 3-5.5 mm; anthers magenta, 1.5-2.4 mm. Ovary ovoid (sometimes narrowly), rarely sparsely hairy, 0.8-1.2 mm; ovules 7-16 per locule; style 4.5- 9 mm. Capsules subacute or obtuse or slightly emarginate, 2.5-4.5 x 2-3.2 mm, rarely hairy, loculicidal split extending 1/4- 1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened (sometimes strongly), ellipsoid to discoid, brown, 1-1.8(-2) x 0.8-1.1 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.6 mm.

Flowering:

(November) December-March (May)

Fruiting:

(January) February-August (November)

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

References and further reading:

Allan, H. H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006 An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 168

Bayly, M. J., Garnock-Jones, P. J., Mitchell, K. A., Markham, K. R. & Brownsey, P. J. 2001: Description of *Hebe calcicola* (Scrophulariaceae), a new species from north-west Nelson, New Zealand, including details of Ravonoid chemistry. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 39: 55-67.

Druce, A. P. 1993: Indigenous vascular plants of New Zealand. 9th revision. Unpublished checklist held at Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand. [Copy also held in the library of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.]

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=1968



Caption: Lake Syvester
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Cobb valley, January
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth