



Veronica angustissima

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island where disjunct between Motu and Waioeka Rivers (East Cape Region) and the upper Otaki River (Tararua Range), and Takapu Stream (Tawa).

Habitat:

A rheophytic shrub of riverine habitats, especially rocky gorges where it invariably grows within or just above the floodline.

Features*:

Openly branched 1-1.4 m tall shrub of riverine banks, gorges, and cliff faces favouring sites prone to sudden flooding. Branches erect to ascending, brittle, brown to grey-brown; branchlets spindly, green, bifariously or uniformly puberulent; internodes 6-14 mm; leaf scars weakly evident. Leaf bud distinct without sinus. Leaves 22-75 x 3-9 mm, dull dark green to yellow-green, linear to linear-lanceolate, membranous, apex acute to subacute, margin puberulent. Inflorescence a lateral, unbranched raceme 47-110 mm long, bearing 29-100 flowers; peduncle 5-18 mm; rachis 41-980 mm. Bracts alternate, narrowly oblong, oblanceolate to deltoid, acute to obtuse. Flowers white or tinged mauve; pedicels 1.8-3.5 mm, longer than or equal to bracts, often recurved in fruit. Calyx 1.9-3.4 mm; lobes narrowly-oblong, lanceolate or elliptic, acute to obtuse, glabrous or hairy on the outer surface. Corolla tube 2.2-4 x 0.7-0.9 mm, white to mauve, cylindric and contracted at base, longer than calyx, internally densely hairy, externally not; lobes white or tinged mauve at anthesis, lanceolate, elliptic, obtuse or subacute, suberect to patent, equaling or longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 4-4.5 mm; anthers 1.4-1.8 mm, mauve or magenta. Ovary 0.6-0.9 mm, narrowly ellipsoid; style 3.5-6 mm. Capsules 2.2-3 x 1.4-2.6 mm, pale brown to brown, obtuse or subacute. Seeds 0.8-1 x 0.6-0.8 mm, straw-yellow, flattened, more or less ellipsoid to discoid.

Flowering:

February - June

Fruiting:

March - January

Threats:

A biologically sparse, naturally uncommon species with a patchy and highly disjunct distribution. It does not appear to have suffered any declines but it is often very uncommon over large stretches of apparently suitable habitat, and it has yet to be found between the East Cape and southerly Tararua Ranges.

***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=1969