



Veronica bollonsii

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, outer Hauraki Gulf where it is mainly found on the Poor Knights and Hen & Chicken Island groups. Also local on rock stacks and headlands from Tutukaka north to about Mimiwhangata.

Habitat:

Petrel scrub, low wind shorn shrubland and open coastal forest or on rock stacks. On the Poor Knights and Hen & Chicken Islands it is often in low wind shorn petrel scrub on exposed shore platforms or on slip scars or in wind damaged coastal forest. Frequent on rocky headlands and sometimes on rock stacks.

Features*:

Heavily branched, rather bushy shrub 2 x 3 m. Branches numerous, erect, old stems grey to grey-brown; branchlets green, minutely puberulent, glabrate; internodes 1-45 mm; leaf decurrencies evident. Leaf bud with sinus. Leaves erect to patent; lamina 14-130 x 8-42 mm, upper surface dark green, usually glossy, hairy along midrib, undersides light green dull or glossy oblanceolate, obovate to oblong or elliptic, coriaceous, more or less flat, apex shortly apiculate, subacute to obtuse, secondary venation evident in young leaves; margin narrowly cartilaginous, glabrous or minutely ciliate. Inflorescences lateral, unbranched racemes, 35-150 mm long, bearing 24-125 flowers; peduncle 6-30 mm, rachis 27-126 mm. Bracts alternate or lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, lanceolate to linear-lanceolate or ovate, acute. Flowers on pedicels 1-7 mm long. Calyx 2.5-5.5 mm; lobes lanceolate, acute, rarely sparsely hairy on the outside. Corolla tube 3-5 x 1.9-2.5 mm, funnellform, hairy inside and often outside (near where lobes diverge); lobes equalling or longer than corolla tube, tinged very pale mauve at anthesis soon fading to white, lanceolate or narrowly elliptic, subacute, anterior lobe obtuse; patent to recurved. Stamen filaments 3.8-7 mm; anthers 2-2.7 mm, mauve or purple. Ovary 0.6-1.2 mm; style 5.5-8.5 mm. Capsules 2.5-5.5 x 1.8-4 mm. subacute. Seeds 1-1.7 x 0.9-1.3 mm, straw-yellow, broad-ellipsoid, more or less winged, flattened.

Flowering:

September - February (often sporadic throughout the year)

Threats:

A naturally uncommon, range restricted species virtually confined to offshore islands where it is under no obvious threats.

*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

Metcalf, L. 2006. Hebes - a guide to species, hybrids, and allied genera. Portland, Oregon, Timber 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=1970



Caption: Hebe bollonsii shrub in flower

Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, December 1993, Aorangi Island, Poor Knights Islands



Caption: Hebe bollonsii - flowering specimen

Photographer: Peter de Lange, 11 Nov 2006, Ex Cult. ex Taranga (Hen) Island.

Fruiting:

Present throughout the year