



## *Veronica brachysiphon*

### Common Name(s):

Hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

South Island - Mountains of Marlborough and Canterbury, from the Red Hills Ridge to near Mount Hutt.

### Habitat:

Subalpine shrubland and in beech forest close to the tree-line.

### Features\*:

Bushy shrub (often closely branched with a compact habit, but sometimes more open) to 1.8 m tall. Branches erect, old stems brown or grey; branchlets green (quickly becoming brown with age), puberulent, hairs bifarious (usually) or uniform; internodes 2-7 (-10.5) mm; leaf decurrencies evident. Leaf bud distinct; sinus narrow and acute, small and acute, or small and rounded (rarely). Leaves decussate to subdistichous, erecto-patent to patent; lamina elliptic (sometimes narrowly) or oblanceolate or ovate or obovate or oblong, rigid or subcoriaceous, concave, (5.5-) 8.5-25.5 x 3.3-8 (-10) mm; apex acute or subacute to occasionally obtuse; 2 lateral secondary veins sometimes evident at base of fresh leaves; midrib thickened below and slightly depressed to grooved above; margin ciliate or ciliate (with eglandular and/or glandular hairs; occasionally glabrous on older leaves); upper surface light to dark green, glossy or dull, with many stomata, hairy along midrib; lower surface lighter green than upper surface; petiole (0.5-) 0.8-3 (-3.5) mm, hairy along margins and sometimes hairy above. Inflorescences with (9-) 14-36 flowers, lateral, unbranched (usually) or tripartite, (1.2-) 1.7-4.1 cm; peduncle 0.5-1.3 cm; rachis 0.6-3.1 cm. Bracts lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above (usually) or alternate, ovate to lanceolate or deltoid (lowermost), obtuse or subacute (usually) or acute (lowermost). Flowers, hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels 0.6-2.5 (-3) mm, hairy or sometimes almost glabrous. Calyx 1.7-3 mm, 4-5-lobed (5th lobe small, posterior); lobes elliptic or ovate, subacute or obtuse or occasionally emarginate. Corolla tube hairy inside; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 2.2-3.5 (-4) x 1.7-2.2 mm, cylindrical to funnelform, longer than (usually) or equalling calyx; tube of female flowers 1.6-3 x 1.4-1.8 mm, funnelform, equalling or longer than calyx; lobes white at anthesis (but sometimes pale mauve in bud), elliptic to oblong or circular or ovate or obovate (occasionally), obtuse, patent, longer than (usually) to shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 1-4.5 mm (1-1.3 mm on female flowers, 3-4.5 mm on hermaphrodite flowers); anthers mauve or purple, 2.2-2.3 mm; sterile anthers 1-1.3 mm. Ovary sometimes hairy, 0.9-1.2 mm; ovules 8-13 per locule; style 4.2-7.2 mm. Capsules subacute, 3-6 x 2.3-4.5 mm, sometimes hairy, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seed characters not recorded.

### Flowering:

October-) December - February (-March)

### Fruiting:

January - May (December)

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

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

### References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006 An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 256.

de Lange, P. J., Murray, B. G. and Datson, P. M. 2004 Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand flora- 38. Counts for 50 families. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 873-904.

Druce, A. P. 1980 Trees, shrubs, and lianes of New Zealand (including wild hybrids). 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.)

Smith-Dodsworth, J. C. 1991 *New Zealand Native Shrubs and Climbers*. Auckland: David Bateman.

Wilson, H. D. and Galloway, T. 1993 *Small-leaved Shrubs of New Zealand*. Christchurch: Manuka Press.

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1971](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1971)



**Caption:** Swale stream

**Photographer:** Simon Moore