



Veronica canterburiensis

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

North and South Island - Southern North Island (Tararua Range near Mt Holdsworth); South Island mountains, mostly on or west of the Main Divide (an exception being Mt Riley, Richmond Range, Marlborough), from North-West Nelson to Arthur's Pass, with apparent southern disjunctions to south Westland and possibly to Southland.

Habitat:

Beech forest at or close to tree-line, and in subalpine grassland and shrubland.

Features*:

Openly branched, spreading low shrub to 1 m tall. Branches spreading or decumbent or ascending; branchlets green (with dark bands at nodes) or red-brown or brown, puberulent, hairs uniform (usually) or bifarious (rarely); internodes (1-) 2-6 (-7.5) mm; leaf decurrencies obscure, or evident and extended for length of internode. Leaf bud distinct; sinus narrow and acute, or broad and acute. Leaves subdistichous, erecto-patent or patent; lamina elliptic or ovate or obovate, rigid, concave, 8-15 (-18.5) x (3.2-) 3.5-6.5 (-7.8) mm; apex subacute or obtuse; base cuneate (usually) or truncate; margin sometimes cartilaginous, ciliate to puberulent (almost always some hairs) or rarely glabrous; upper surface green, glossy (usually) or dull, with few or without evident stomata, minutely hairy along midrib (especially toward base); lower surface green, usually dull; petiole 1-2.5 (-3) mm. Juvenile leaves entire, minutely ciliate and midrib minutely puberulent above. Inflorescences with 5-12 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 1-3 cm; peduncle 0.2-1 cm; rachis 1-2 (-2.5) cm. Bracts alternate or opposite and decussate below and becoming alternate above, ovate or elliptic or deltoid, obtuse to acute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels (0-) 0.3-3 (-4) mm. Calyx 2-4.1 mm; lobes ovate (mostly) or deltoid or elliptic, subacute or obtuse or acute (rarely). Corolla tube glabrous, 1.4-3.5 x 1-1.5 (-2) mm, contracted at base, longer than or equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate or obovate, obtuse or subacute, suberect to recurved, longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect or slightly diverging with age, 3-5 mm; anthers purple or magenta, (0.85-) 1-1.5 (-1.65) mm. Ovary 1.1-1.8 mm; ovules 13-22 per locule, in 1-3 layers; style (3.5-) 4-7.2 mm. Capsules subacute or acute, (2.6-) 3-4.9 x 2.1-3.8 mm, loculicidal split extending up to 1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened (sometimes strongly), broad ellipsoid to discoid, more or less weakly winged, brown, 1.3-1.7 x 1-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.5 mm

Flowering:

(October-) November-January (-April)

Fruiting:

(November-) December-April (-October)

Threats:

Not Threatened

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

Armstrong, J.B. 1879 Descriptions of some new native plants. *New Zealand Country Journal* 3: 56-7.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006 An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 228.

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=1973



Caption: *Hebe canterburiensis*

Photographer: DoC