



Veronica cockayneana

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Southern South Island mountains, mostly on or west of the Main Divide, from Lake Sweeney and the Mataketake Range to near Centre Pass, north of Dusky Sound.

Habitat:

Alpine shrubland and grassland, sometimes in rocky places.

Features*:

Densely branched, bushy shrub or spreading low shrub (in exposed situations) to 1.2 m tall. Branches erect; branchlets pubescent (with long, multicellular hairs, usually of 4 or more cells, golden or white), hairs bifarious; internodes 2.5-6.5 mm; leaf decurrencies obscure to evident and extended for length of internode. Leaf bud distinct; sinus narrow and acute. Leaves decussate or subdistichous, erecto-patent to patent; lamina usually elliptic (sometimes narrowly) or less commonly obovate, rigid or coriaceous, concave, (5-) 10-21.5 x (3-) 3.5-7.5 (-9) mm; apex subacute; margin minutely papillate and glabrous or minutely glandular-ciliate; upper surface green, glossy, with few or without evident stomata, glabrous or hairy along midrib (hairs to approximately 0.075 mm, many < 0.05 mm); lower surface glaucous (except on midrib or margin); petiole 0.5-2 mm. Inflorescences with (2-) 6-16 (-23) flowers, lateral, unbranched (almost always) or with 3 or more branches, 1-3.2 cm; peduncle (0.15-) 0.2-1.1 cm; rachis 0.6-2.5 cm. Bracts usually opposite and decussate, free or connate (rarely and only very shortly), ovate or deltoid, subacute or acute or rarely obtuse. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels (0.5-) 1-5.5 mm. Calyx 1.5-4 mm, with anterior lobes free for most of their length or united 1/2-1/2-way to apex; lobes ovate, subacute or obtuse. Corolla tube glabrous; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 1.5-2.3 x approximately 1.8-2.5 mm, funnellform, shorter than or equalling calyx; tube of <> flowers 1-2 mm, shorter than or equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate or elliptic, obtuse or subacute, suberect to patent, longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 1.4-4.3 mm (fertile 3.5-4.3 mm; sterile 1.4-1.8 mm); anthers magenta, 1.6-2 mm; sterile anthers 0.8-1 mm. Nectarial disc very broad and glabrous. Ovary 1.1-1.3 mm; ovules 9-13 per locule; style 2.5-5.2 mm; stigma noticeably larger in female flowers. Capsules subacute or obtuse, (2-) 3-5.5 x 2.2-3.3 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/2-3/4-way to base (frequently less than 1/2-way). Seeds flattened, more or less broad ellipsoid, more or less smooth, brown (sometimes pale), 1.1-1.2 x 0.9-1.7 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

December - February (-March)

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

Bayly, M. J., Kellow, A. V., Mitchell, K., Markham, K. R., de Lange, P. J., Harper, G. E., Garnock-Jones, P. J. and Brownsey, P. J. 2002 Descriptions and Flavonoid chemistry of new taxa in *Hebe* sect. *Subdistichae* (Scrophulariaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 40: 571-602.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 248.

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=1974



Caption: Glacier Burn, Head Lake, Wakatipu

Photographer: Alastair Macdonald