



## Veronica simulans

### Common Name(s):

Hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (north-west Nelson south east to north Canterbury in and about the main divide)

### Habitat:

Subalpine shrubland and tussock grassland, usually in shallow mountain soils or on rock strewn ground, rubble slopes and on rock outcrops.

### Features\*:

Shrub or spreading low shrub, to 1 m tall. Branches erect, or ascending; old stems dark brown (mostly), or grey; youngest branchlets brown, or red-brown, or green; internodes 1.0–7.5 mm long; stem pubescence bifarious, eglandular. Leaf bud about as long as mature leaves; sinus broad and acute. Leaves free at base, erecto-patent to patent; lamina obovate, oblanceolate or elliptic, coriaceous, concave, 6.4–19.6 × 3.5–7.9 mm; apex obtuse to acute; base cuneate; evident venation in fresh leaves consisting of midrib only; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; margin usually slightly thickened, rounded (or ± squarish), minutely papillate and sometimes glandular-ciliate, entire or crenate (may vary on one plant); upper surface green, slightly glossy or dull, with many or with few or without evident stomata, hairy along midrib; lower surface glaucous or glaucescent or light green, dull, glabrous. Petiole 1.0–2.5 mm long, hairy above (along midrib). Inflorescences with 4–16 flowers, lateral, racemose and unbranched (mostly) or sometimes racemose and compound with 1–2 branches at base, 9–31 mm long, longer than (mostly) or about equal to subtending leaves; peduncle 1–65 mm long, pubescent with a mixture of eglandular and glandular hairs; rachis 4–21 mm long, pubescent with a mixture of eglandular and glandular hairs; bracts opposite and decussate, usually free or connate (only sometimes, and then only connected by a very narrow ridge), subacute or acute or acuminate, ciliolate with both glandular and eglandular hairs, lanceolate or deltoid; pedicels < or << than bracts or absent, pubescent with both eglandular and glandular hairs, suberect or erectopatent at anthesis, suberect or erecto-patent at fruiting, 0.5–1.5 mm long. Flowers on individual plants hermaphrodite or female. Calyx 2–3 mm long, 4-lobed, divisions subequally deep; lobes lanceolate to elliptic, obtuse or subacute, with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia, margins narrowly membranous. Corolla white at anthesis; tube glabrous, 1.8–3.0 × 2.2–2.5 mm, broadly funnellform and contracted at base, more or less equalling calyx; tube of female flowers 1.4–1.6 × 1.5–1.8 mm, contracted at base, < or = calyx; lobes longer than corolla tube, glabrous; ovate, elliptic, obtuse; corolla throat white. Stamen filaments white, diverging after anthesis, straight at apex in bud, up to 6.5 mm long; anthers obtuse or apiculate, magenta, c.2.0–2.2 mm long; sterile anthers c.0.7–1.1 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, 1.5–1.7 mm long; style 5–7 mm long, glabrous, white; stigma subcapitate or capitate, white, yellow or green at anthesis. Capsules subacute or obtuse, pale brown, 3.2–4.0 × 2.2–3.2 mm, glabrous, loculicidal split extending 1/4–1/2 way to base.

### Flowering:

November - January

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Bayly et al. (2002) and Bayly & Kellow (2006)

### References and further reading:

Bayly M.; Kellow A. 2006: An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press: Wellington

Bayly, M.J.; Kellow, A.V.; Mitchell, K.A.; Markham, K.R.; de Lange, P.J.; Harper, G.E.; Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Brownsey, P.J. 2002: Descriptions and Flavonoid Chemistry of New Taxa in *Hebe* sect. *Subdistichae* (Scrophulariaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 40(4): 571-602.

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=1977](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1977)



**Caption:** Lake Peel, Cobb Valley  
**Photographer:** Alastair Macdonald