



Veronica cryptomorpha

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Marlborough and Nelson, primarily on mountains of the Wairau River catchment)

Habitat:

Subalpine shrubland and tussock grassland, usually in shallow mountain soils or on rock strewn ground, rubble slopes, on rock outcrops or cliff faces within river gorges and ravines.

Features*:

Shrub or rounded shrub, to 1.2 m tall. Branches erect; old stems light to very dark brown, or red-brown (chocolate); younger branchlets brown (usually), or green; internodes 1-10 mm long; stem pubescence bifarious, eglandular. Leaf bud about as long as mature leaves; sinus broad and acute. Leaves decussate, erecto-patent to patent; lamina oblanceolate, lanceolate or elliptic; fleshy or slightly thin, 7-33 × 3-9 mm; apex acute or subacute; base cuneate; evident venation in fresh leaves consisting of midrib only; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; margin not thickened, rounded (or squarish), minutely papillate, mostly entire; upper surface green, dull or slightly glossy, hairy along midrib; lower surface light green or glaucous or glaucescent, dull, with many stomata. Petiole 1-6 mm long, hairy above (along midrib). Inflorescences with 5-17 flowers, lateral, racemose and mostly unbranched, 12-37 mm long, = to > subtending leaves; peduncle 2-1.3 mm long, pubescent; rachis 8-31 mm long; bracts almost always opposite and decussate, free (usually) or connate (sometimes very shortly, especially near base of inflorescence), acute, subacute or obtuse, ciliolate, lanceolate or ovate or deltoid; pedicels < or << bracts or absent (can vary on one plant), pubescent, suberect at anthesis, suberect to erecto-patent at fruiting, 0.5-5.0 mm long. Flowers on individual plants either hermaphrodite or female. Calyx 2.4-3.5 mm long, 3-4-lobed, divisions mostly subequally deep or with anterior lobes united to 1/3 to whole (or almost whole) way to apex; lobes lanceolate to elliptic, subacute, obtuse or acute, ciliate, margins narrowly membranous. Corolla white; tube glabrous, 1.5-3.0 × 2.0-3.0 mm wide, shortly cylindric, = or slightly longer than calyx; lobes > corolla tube, glabrous; ovate to elliptic, obtuse, patent to recurved, with margin and apex flat; corolla throat white. Stamen filaments white 3.5-5.5 mm long; anthers obtuse or shortly apiculate, dark pink or purplish mauve, 1.9-2.4 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid, glabrous or sparsely eglandular hairy, 1.5-2.1 mm long; style 3.00-6.50 × c.0.15-0.25 mm thick, glabrous or with sparse multicellular hairs (especially toward base), white; stigma subcapitate, white, yellow or green at anthesis, 0.25-0.35 mm wide. Capsules latiseptate, obtuse or subacute, pale to dark brown, 3.0-4.0 × 2.4-2.8 mm wide, glabrous or with sparse eglandular, multicellular hairs, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2 way to base.

Flowering:

October - December

Fruiting:

December - April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (28 November 2006): Description from Bayly and Kellow (2006)

References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J. et al. 2002: Descriptions and flavonoid chemistry of new taxa in Hebe sect. Subdistichae (Scrophulariaceae). New Zealand Journal of Botany 40: 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

Seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1978



Caption: Mt Patriarch, January
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth