



Veronica leiophylla

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Widespread on northern South Island, north from the Organ Range. and Greymouth.

Habitat:

Grows in scrub and at forest margins in a range of situations, sometimes in swampy sites. from sea-level to the treeline.

Features*:

Bushy shrub to 3 m tall. Branches erect, old stems brown or grey; branchlets green, puberulent, hairs uniform; internodes (2-) 4-15 (-30) mm; leaf decurrencies evident or obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus small and rounded, or narrow and acute. Leaves erecto-patent to recurved; lamina linear-lanceolate or oblong-elliptic, thin or subcoriaceous, flat or slightly m-shaped in transverse section, (8-) 15-40 (-56) x (2-) 4-8 (-10.5) mm; apex acute to obtuse; margin sometimes cartilaginous, puberulent; upper surface green, dull or glossy, without evident or with few stomata, hairy along midrib and sometimes covered with minute glandular hairs (when young); lower surface green or light green, glabrous or hairy along midrib; petiole 0-2 (-3) mm, hairy along margins and above and sometimes below. Inflorescences with 14-150 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 3.5-16.5cm; peduncle 0.5-2.6cm; rachis 2.5-14.1 cm. Bracts alternate, lanceolate to elliptic, subacute to acute. Flowers hermaphrodite. pedicels (0.9-) 1.5-3 mm. Calyx 1.5-2.5 (-2.9) mm; lobes elliptic or lanceolate or more rarely deltoid or oblong, subacute to obtuse or rarely acute. Corolla tube hairy inside and sometimes sparsely hairy outside, (1.5-) 2-3 x 1.7-2.5 mm, funnelform, shorter to longer than calyx; lobes white or tinged mauve at anthesis, ovate or elliptic, obtuse, suberect to patent, longer than corolla tube, sometimes with a few hairs toward base on inner surface. Stamen filaments (4.5-) 5.5-7.5 mm; anthers mauve or pink, 1.8-2.1 mm. Ovary very rarely hairy, approximately 0.8-1.2 mm; ovules approximately 11-12 per locule; style 4.7-7 mm, very rarely hairy. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.7-4.5 (-5) x (1.8-) 2.3-3 (-3.5) mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-3/4-way to base (most approximately 1/4-way). Seeds strongly flattened, more or less discoid, winged, pale brown, 1.2-1.7 x 1-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.4 mm.

Flowering:

(December-) January-April (-June)

Fruiting:

(December-) February-June (-November)

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

Allan, H. H. 1961. Flora of New Zealand. Volume 1. Wellington: Government Printer.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 264.

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=1984



Caption: Heaphy Track

Photographer: Alastair Macdonald



Caption: In flower, Takaka River Gorge, N. W. Nelson, Jan, 2013

Photographer: Simon Walls