



## *Veronica haastii*

### Common Name(s):

Hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

South Island. Predominantly on mountains of Canterbury, from the Craigieburn Range to The Hunters Hills, with a disjunct, northernmost occurrence on Mount Terako, Marlborough.

### Habitat:

Grows in open, alpine sites on rock debris and scree.

### Features\*:

Spreading low shrub to 0.2 m tall. Branches decumbent or ascending or spreading, old stems brown; branchlets purplish or green or brown, puberulent, hairs bifarious; internodes 2.5-7 (-10) mm; leaves not readily abscising, persisting on stem (usually) or decaying leaving basal parts attached. Leaf bud tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves. Leaves decussate, connate, erecto-patent to patent; lamina elliptic to obovate or ovate or spatulate (rarely, on lowermost leaves), coriaceous to fleshy, flat or concave, (6.6-) 8.2-13 x (4.2-) 5.5- 9.3 (-11.6) mm; apex rounded to subacute; midrib slightly thickened below, sometimes evident in fresh leaves (below); margin not cartilaginous, not thickened, glabrous, often tinged red, entire or shallowly to deeply toothed; upper surface green to dark green (sometimes tinged dark red), dull or glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface green to dark green (sometimes tinged dark red), dull or glossy. Inflorescences with 4-6 flowers per spike, (8-) 12-19 (-25) spikes per flowering head, terminal and lateral (arranged in a terminal flowering head), unbranched, (0.85-) 1.3-3.3 cm (total length of flowering head), spikes about equal to subtending leaves (flowering head longer than subtending leaves); peduncle 0-0.1 cm; rachis 0.2-0.3 cm. Bracts lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, connate, oblong to deltoid or lanceolate, acute to subacute or rarely obtuse. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels absent. Calyx 4-5 (-6) mm; lobes oblong or elliptic to lanceolate, subacute to obtuse. Corolla tube glabrous; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 4-5.5 (-6) x 1.8-2 mm, cylindric, shorter than or equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, elliptic or ovate, subacute. suberect to patent, shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect, 0.1-0.4 mm; anthers pink, 1.1-1.2 mm. Ovary rarely hairy, 1.5-2 mm; ovules 24-30 per locule, in 1-2 layers; style 2-2.4 (-4) mm. Capsules subacute, 5-6 x 2.5-3.7 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds more or less flattened, more or less broad ellipsoid, straw-yellow, 0.9-1.3 x 0.6-0.9 mm, micropylar rim 0.1-0.2 mm

### Flowering:

December-January (-February)

### Fruiting:

January-April (-August)

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### \*Attribution:

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

### References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 120.

Kellow, A. V., Bayly, M. J., Mitchell, K. A., Markham, K. R. and Brownsey, P. J. 2003. A taxonomic revision of *Hebe* informal group "Connatae" (Plantaginaceae), based on morphology and flavonoid chemistry. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 41: 613-35.

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=1985](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1985)



**Caption:** Mt Hutt

**Photographer:** Phil Garnock-Jones