



## *Veronica hectorii* subsp. *hectorii*

**Common Name(s):**

Hebe

**Current Threat Status (2012):**

Not Threatened

**Distribution:**

South Island - southwest South Island, from the Aoraki/Mount Cook area southwards, and on Mount Anglem, Stewart Id.

**Habitat:**

Penalpine grassland and subalpine shrubland.

**Features\*:**

Spreading low or bushy shrub to 1 m tall, of whipcord form. Branches erect or ascending or spreading; internodes 0.6-1.9 (-2.7) mm; branchlets, including leaves, 1.3-4 (-4.6) mm wide; connate leaf bases hairy (at least when young; but sometimes connate portion deeply furrowed and hairs not visible); nodal joint distinct, either hidden or exposed; leaves not readily abscising, persistent along the stem for some distance. Leaves connate, appressed; lamina 1.2-2.7 (-3.1) mm, not thickened near the apex; apex obtuse or subacute or apiculate or mucronate; margin ciliate or ciliolate (at least when young, but hairs often deciduous with age); lower surface dark green or bronze- or yellowish-green, veins not visible, glossy. Reversion leaves incised or entire, glabrous. Inflorescences with 4-16 flowers, terminal, unbranched, 0.35-1.5cm; rachis densely hairy (with long, white, tangled hairs). Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, ovate or deltoid, obtuse or apiculate or subacute, sometimes hairy outside (near basal, connate portion). Flowers hermaphrodite. Calyx 1.8-3.5 (-4.2) mm, 4-5-lobed (5th lobe small, posterior), with anterior lobes free for most of their length or united to 1/3-2/3-way to apex; lobes elliptic, obtuse or subacute, with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia (glandular hairs usually obscured by long eglandular hairs). Corolla tube hairy inside, 1.5-3.3 x 1.3-2.6 mm. cylindrical or funnellform, slightly shorter to slightly longer than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate or elliptic, obtuse. suberect to recurved, longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3.5-4.2 mm; anthers magenta or purple or pink, 1.1-1.7 mm. Ovary ovoid or somewhat globose, 0.6-1 mm, apex (in septum view) obtuse or slightly emarginate or didymous; ovules approximately 18-34 per locule, in 1-3 layers; style 3.3-6.5 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 1.8-3.2 x 1.8-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid to oblong, more or less smooth, straw-yellow or brown, 0.9-1.4 x 0.5-0.8 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.5 mm.

**Flowering:**

(November-) December-March (-April)

**Fruiting:**

(January-) February-June (-December)

**\*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. 94-98.
- Cockayne, L. 1909. *Report on a Botanical Survey of Stewart Island*. Wellington: Government Printer.
- Simpson, G. 1952. Notes on some New Zealand plants and descriptions of new species (no. 5). *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 79: 419-35.
- Wagstaff, S. J. and Wardle, P. 1999. Whipcord hebes - systematics, distribution, ecology and evolution. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 17-39.

**For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1986](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1986)



**Caption:** Hebe hectorii subsp. hectorii

**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell



**Caption:** Borland saddle, January

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth