



## *Veronica lycopodioides*

### Common Name(s):

whipcord hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Mountains of South Island, chiefly on or east of the Main Divide, from the Bryant Range in the north to the Kakanui Mountains in the south.

### Habitat:

Grows in penalpine grassland and subalpine shrubland.

### Features\*:

Spreading low or bushy shrub to 1 m tall, of whipcord form.

Branches ascending or decumbent or erect; internodes (0.55-) 0.8-1.3 (-1.55) mm; branchlets, including leaves, (1.8-) 2.3-3.3 (-4.2) mm wide; connate leaf bases hairy; nodal joint distinct, usually hidden (but sometimes barely) or exposed; leaves not readily abscising, persistent along the stem for some distance. Leaves connate, appressed; lamina not thickened near the apex; apex mucronate (usually) to subacute; margin ciliate or ciliolate; lower surface dark green to yellowish-green, with prominent shallow veins that give a ribbed or striped appearance (at least faintly), dull to slightly glossy. Juvenile leaves crenate to pinnatifid, ciliate (near base and on lower surface). Reversion leaves entire or incised to pinnatifid, glabrous. Inflorescences with (4-) 6-16 (-20) flowers, terminal, unbranched, (0.35-) 0.5-1.6 (-1.9) cm; rachis hairy (with long, white, tangled hairs). Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, broadly deltoid, acuminate to subacute.

Flowers hermaphrodite. Calyx 2.8-3.5 mm, 4-5-lobed (5th lobe small, posterior); lobes lanceolate or elliptic or oblong, obtuse to acute, with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia (glandular hairs usually obscured by long eglandular hairs). Corolla tube hairy inside, 2.5-3.2 x 1.1-1.3 mm, cylindric, longer than or approximately equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, elliptic or ovate, obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to patent, shorter to longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 2.5-3.6 mm; anthers magenta, approximately 1-1.3 mm. Ovary 0.7-0.8 mm, apex (in septum view) didymous; ovules approximately

13-16 per locule, marginal on a flattened placenta (but sometimes recurved and appearing scattered), in 1-2 layers; style 2.5-7 mm. Capsules obtuse, (1.7-) 2.2-3.4 x (1.3-) 1.8-2.4 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid, more or less finely papillate, pale brown, 0.9-1.5 x approximately 0.7 mm, micropylar rim approximately 0.2 mm.

### Flowering:

(November-) December-February (-April)

### Fruiting:

January-April (-December)

### \*Attribution:

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

### References and further reading:

Allan, H. H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 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. 100.

Simpson, G. and Thomson, J. S. 1943. Notes on some New Zealand plants and descriptions of new species. *Transactions of the Royal Society of New Zealand* 73: 155- 71.

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

Wagstaff, S. J. and Wardle, P. 1999. Whipcord hebes - systematics, distribution, ecology and evolution. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 37: 17-39.



**Caption:** Misery Tarn, Branch River

**Photographer:** Simon Moore



**Caption:** Rachael Range

**Photographer:** Gillian Crowcroft