



Veronica macrantha var. *macrantha*

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Mountains of South Island, chiefly on or west of the Main Divide, from near Lake Tennyson, to the Franklin Mountains. The varieties overlap in distribution at Lake Tennyson, southern Nelson, and possibly also (not verified by specimens) at localities between there and Lewis Pass.

Habitat:

It grows in penalpine grassland or low shrubland.

Features*:

Spreading low shrub to 0.3 (-0.5) m tall. Branches erect or spreading or decumbent, old stems mottled grey; branchlets green or red-brown or brown, glabrous or puberulent (usually only on very youngest branchlets), hairs uniform or bifarious; internodes 1-14 mm; leaf decurrencies obscure to swollen. Leaf bud indistinct and tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves. Leaves narrowly elliptic or oblanceolate, or spatulate or sub-circular, coriaceous, slightly concave or flat, 5.5-30.2 x 2.5-13.5 mm, ratio of lamina length/width 1.2-3.3 (-3.8), distance from leaf base (including petiole) to widest point (5.1-) 10-20 (-23.2) mm.; apex subacute or obtuse; midrib not thickened, or depressed to grooved above and thickened below, sometimes evident in fresh leaves; margin glabrous or sparsely ciliolate, sometimes tinged red, deeply toothed, number of teeth on one side of leaf (2-) 3-7 (-11); upper surface green (sometimes tinged red near base), dull, with many stomata, glabrous or hairy along midrib; lower surface green, hairy along midrib (usually) or glabrous; petiole 0.5-5.4 mm. Inflorescences with 2-7 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 0.8-5.7 cm, with all flowers (including those near the apex) generally developing to maturity (but inflorescence usually terminated by a pair of empty bracts); peduncle (6-) 7-30.7 mm long; rachis 0.2-2.7 cm. Lowermost bracts on inflorescences (4-) 5-9.1 mm long, lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, narrowly deltoid or linear, obtuse (with a more or less squarish tip, often with a sunken apical gland). Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels shorter than bracts, (0.5-) 1-6 (-14.7) mm. Calyx 4.7-10.2 mm; lobes ovate or lanceolate, acuminate (with a more or less squarish tip, often with a sunken apical gland), glabrous outside (but hairy inside). Corolla tube glabrous, 4.5-5.3 x 2.5-4.5 mm (longer on anterior side), funnellform, shorter than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate (often broadly), obtuse, patent to recurved, longer than corolla tube; corolla throat white or yellow. Stamen filaments thick and white, diverging slightly with age or remaining erect (and usually slightly incurved at the apex), 8-9.5 mm (varying from very shortly fused to the base of the corolla tube, to fused to the corolla tube for up to 2/3 its length); anthers creamy white or yellow, 2.6-3.5 mm. Ovary 1.6-2.5 mm; ovules 15-28 per locule, scattered on a hemispherical placenta; style 5.5-9.3 mm. Capsules angustiseptate, acute, 6.5-12.4 mm long, 4.5-6.5 mm thick, loculicidal split extending 1/4-all way to base. Seeds flattened (sometimes strongly), discoid, winged, pale brown, 1.5-2.7 x 1.2-2.2 mm, micropylar rim 0.6-1 mm.

Flowering:

(November-) December-February (-April)

Fruiting:

(December-) February-May (-November)

*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. 286.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V., Ansell, R., Mitchell, K. and Markham, K. R. 2004. Geographic variation in *Hebe macrantha* (Plantaginaceae): morphology and Flavonoid chemistry. *Tuhinga, Records of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa* 15: 27-41.

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=1989



Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: *Hebe macrantha* var. *macrantha*

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