



Veronica masoniae

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Mountains of western Nelson, South Island, from near Boulder Lake in the north to the Braeburn Range in the south.

Habitat:

It grows in *Chionochloa australis* grassland, tussock grassland, or scrub, sometimes in wet sites.

Features*:

Spreading low or bushy shrub to 0.5 m tall. Branches decumbent or ascending or erect, old stems brown; branchlets green or red-brown, pubescent (hairs multicellular, more or less appressed, usually upward-facing), hairs bifarious; internodes (1-) 2-4 (-5) mm; leaf decurrencies extended for length of internode and often more or less swollen; leaves usually abscising above nodes with a small portion of lower part of petioles remaining attached to stem. Leaf bud tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves; sinus broad and shield-shaped. Leaves appressed to patent; lamina oblong (often broadly) or elliptic or sub-circular, rigid, concave, (3-) 6-9 (-10) x 4-8 mm; apex obtuse; base truncate (often abruptly); midrib evident in fresh leaves (below), forming a thickened keel throughout the length of leaf; margin glabrous or ciliate (with very short, stiff hairs) or ciliate; upper surface dark green, glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface dark green, glossy; petiole 1-1.5 (-2) mm, glabrous. Inflorescences with 2-10 (-14) flowers, terminal, unbranched, 0.8-1.8 cm; rachis glabrous or hairy (but not evident without removal of flowers and bracts). Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, large and almost obscuring calyx, elliptic or sub-circular, obtuse (usually) or subacute, margins hairy (cilia usually longer than those of *V. pauciramosa*). Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels absent. Calyx 5.5-7 mm; lobes lanceolate to elliptic, obtuse or subacute, usually eglandular ciliate or very rarely with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia. Corolla tube hairy inside, 4.5-6 x approximately 1.5-2 mm, cylindrical to funnellform, approximately equalling calyx; lobes white (usually) or tinged mauve at anthesis, ovate (often broadly) or elliptic, obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to recurved, longer to shorter than corolla tube, sometimes sparsely hairy inside. Stamen filaments 3-4.2 mm; anthers magenta, 1.8-2.6 mm. Ovary 1-1.4 mm, apex (in septum view) truncate or emarginate; ovules 8-14 per locule; style 7-9 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 4-5 x c. 4 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/3-way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, broad ellipsoid or obovoid, weakly winged, pale brown, 1.5-2.1 x 1-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

(October-) December-February (-April)

Fruiting:

January-May (-November)

*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. 220.

Garnock-Jones, P. J. 1993. Phylogeny of the *Hebe* complex (Scrophulariaceae: Veroniceae). *Australian Systematic Botany* 6: 457-79.

Heads, M. J. (1987). New names in New Zealand Scrophulariaceae. *Otago Botanical Society Newsletter* 5: 4-11.

Heads, M. J. (1992). Taxonomic notes on the *Hebe* complex (Scrophulariaceae) in the New Zealand mountains. *Candollea* 47: 583-95.

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



Caption: *Hebe masoniae*

Photographer: Sandra
Wotherspoon



Caption: Mt Peel, Nelson, January

Photographer: John Smith-
Dodsworth