



Veronica murrellii

Common Name(s):

Murrell's Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Fiordland National Park, along and west of the Main Divide, Takitimu Mountains)

Habitat:

Alpine. Inhabiting scree, talus, and sparsely vegetated rock outcrops.

Features*:

Spreading or trailing gynodioecious subshrub with ascending to erect branchlets, to 200 mm tall. Old stems grey or brown; branchlets greenish to pale brown, with red band at nodes, bifariously pubescent; internodes 1–2× diameter. Leaf bud with narrow acuminate sinus. Leaves spreading, very shortly connate; lamina elliptic to obovate, subcoriaceous, yellowish green above and beneath, 3.5–9.0 × 2.0–5.0 mm, usually with sparse, very short, tapering eglandular hairs on midrib above and beneath and margins, rarely glabrous; apex broadly rounded; base cuneately narrowed to short broad flat petiole; margin entire, yellowish, rounded. Inflorescences terminal, racemose, 10–30 mm long; flowers crowded, spiralled. Peduncle and rachis puberulent; peduncle very short. Bracts linear-lanceolate to narrow-elliptic, obtuse to acute, minutely ciliolate, slightly shorter than calyx lobes. Pedicels erecto-patent, 0.5–2.0 mm long. Flowers sweetly scented, female or hermaphrodite on separate plants. Calyx lobes 4, oblong to elliptic, obtuse to subacute, not overlapping, 2.5–3.0 × 1.0–1.5 mm; margin minutely glandular and eglandular ciliolate. Corolla white; tube 1.5–2.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm, funnelform, glabrous; lobes recurved, elliptic (female) to broadly elliptic (hermaphrodite), obtuse, 2.5–3.0 × 1.5–2.5 mm. Anthers purple, obtuse, fertile and c.2 mm long (hermaphrodite) or sterile and c.1 mm long (female); filaments white, long-exserted, 1(female)-3(hermaphrodite) mm long, erect or slightly spreading. Nectarial disk glabrous, fleshy, green. Style white, glabrous, 1–5 mm long, curving to anterior of flower, clavate below stigma; stigma subcapitate. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, c.1.0 × 0.7 mm. Capsule flattened, ovate, acute, dark brown, 3.5–4.0 × 3.0 mm, 1 mm thick, septicidal to base, loculicidal at apex only. Seeds pale orange-brown, elliptic, strongly piano-convex, smooth, 0.9–1.1 × 0.6–0.8 mm.

Flowering:

December - March

Fruiting:

January – April

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (28 August 2005): Description from Garnock-Jones and Clarkson (1991)

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Clarkson, B.D. 1991: *Hebe adamsii* and *H. murrellii* (Scrophulariaceae) reinstated. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 32: 11-15.

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=1996



Caption: Mount Burns, Fiordland
Photographer: Alastair Macdonald