



## Veronica odora

### Common Name(s):

Hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Widespread, south from the Huiarau Range, Lake Waikaremoana, on mountains of North Island, South Island, Stewart Island and the Auckland Islands. (see notes below)

### Habitat:

It grows in montane to penalpine grassland, shrubland, bogs and flushes.

### Features\*:

Spreading low or bushy shrub (varies from a rounded bush to very lax and open) to 0.9 (-1.7) m tall. Branches spreading or decumbent or ascending or erect, old stems brown or red-brown or grey or black (at least when dry); branchlets green, puberulent or pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes (0.9-) 1.3-4.5 mm; leaf decurrencies evident and usually swollen; leaves abscising above nodes and lower part of petioles remaining attached to stem. Leaf bud distinct; sinus broad and shield-shaped. Leaves erect to patent; lamina ovate or lanceolate to elliptic or obovate or sometimes almost circular, rigid and coriaceous, concave, (3.6-) 4.5-11.5 x 2.3-5.4 mm; apex subacute; base truncate; midrib thickened below; margin glabrous, usually entire or sometimes minutely crenulate; upper surface dark green, glossy, without evident stomata (usually) or with many stomata (on many plants from Arthur's Pass area), glabrous; lower surface green (paler than upper); petiole 0.5-1.5 (-2.2) mm, glabrous. Inflorescences mostly terminal and lateral but sometimes only terminal, unbranched, (0.6-) 1-2.8 cm; peduncle 0.13-0.36 cm, bifariously hairy or glabrous; rachis 0.5-1.7cm, hairy (usually bifariously). Bracts opposite and decussate, free, ovate, subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite (although E. M. Low (pers. comm. 2005) suggests that some populations include female plants). Pedicels absent. Calyx 3.5-5 mm; lobes elliptic, subacute to obtuse. Corolla tube hairy inside, approximately 3-3.5 x approximately 1.5 mm, narrowly cylindric, approximately equalling or longer than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, narrowly to broadly elliptic, obtuse, patent to recurved, equalling or longer than corolla tube, sometimes sparsely hairy inside. Stamen filaments 2-3.2 mm; anthers pink, 1.9-2.4 mm. Ovary ovoid or globose, 0.7-1.2 mm; ovules approximately 8-13 per locule; style approximately 5.5-7 mm. Capsules subacute or obtuse, 3.9-4.5 x approximately 3.4-3.6 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid (sometimes broadly), not winged to only weakly winged, straw-yellow to pale brown, 1.2-1.8 x 0.9-1.3 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.6 mm.

### Flowering:

(November-) December-January (-March)

### Fruiting:

December-April (-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. 216-218.

Dawson, M. I. and Beuzenberg, E. J. 2000. Contributions to a chromosome atlas of the New Zealand Flora - 36. Miscellaneous families. New Zealand Journal of Botany 38: 1-23.

Druce, A. P. 1980. Trees, shrubs, and Lianes of New Zealand (including wild hybrids). Unpublished checklist held at Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand. (Copy also held in the library of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.)

Druce, A. P. 1993. Indigenous vascular plants of New Zealand. 9th revision. Unpublished checklist held at Landcare Research, Lincoln, New Zealand. Copy also held in the library of the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.

Eagle, A. 1982. Eagle's Trees and Shrubs of New Zealand. 2nd series. Auckland: Collins.

Hooker, J. D. 1844. The Botany of the Antarctic Voyage of H. M. Ships Erebus and Terror, in the Years 1839-1843. Flora Antarctica. Part I. Botany of Lord Auckland's Group and Campbell's Island. London: Reeve Brothers. (Part 1 comprises pages up to p. 208 in combined volumes. Although publication of this part was not complete until May 1845, the sections covering *Veronica* species were published by October 1844.)

Markham, K.R., Mitchell, K. A., Bayly, M. J., Kellow, A. V., Brownsey, P. J. and Garnock-Jones, P. J. 2005. Composition and taxonomic distribution of leaf flavonoids in *Hebe* and *Leonohebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand - I. "Buxifoliatae", "Flagrifformes" and *Leonohebe*. New Zealand Journal of Botany 43: 165-203.

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:** Blue Lake, Garvie Mountains, Otago

**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell



**Caption:** Sugarloaf, Canterbury (bark detail)

**Photographer:** Jesse Bythell

For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1997](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1997)