



Veronica pauciramosa

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Mountains of South Island, from the Allen Range southward, mostly on or west of the Main Divide, but with a few records from drier mountains of the east. It also occurs on Stewart Island, where it has been collected from Mount Anglem and Mount Rakeahua.

Habitat:

It usually grows in moist or boggy areas in tussock grassland.

Features*:

Spreading low or bushy shrub to 0.5 m tall. Branches erect or ascending, old stems brown or black; branchlets green or yellowish, pubescent (hairs multicellular, usually upward-facing), hairs bifarious; internodes (1-) 1.5-4.5 (-5.5) mm; leaf decurrencies extended for length of internode and often more or less swollen; leaves 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 erect to patent; lamina broadly oblong or elliptic to subcircular, rigid, concave, (3-) 3.5-7 (-9) x (1.5-) 3.5-6 (-11.5) mm; apex obtuse; base abruptly truncate; midrib evident in fresh leaves (below), forming a thickened keel that is characteristically flattened toward leaf apex; margin glabrous or ciliolate (with short, stiff hairs); upper surface dark green, glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface, dark green, glossy; petiole (0.5-) 1-1.5 (-3)mm, glabrous. Inflorescence with 2-10 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 0.7-1.7 (-2) cm; rachis coarsely hairy. Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, deltoid, obtuse, margins minutely hairy or glabrous. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels absent or if evident then always shorter than bracts. Calyx 3.5-4.5 mm, 3-4-lobed (i.e. depending on extent of fusion of anterior lobes), with anterior lobes united from 2/3 to all the way to apex (sometimes splitting secondarily as fruit matures); lobes narrowly to broadly oblong, obtuse or emarginate (the latter in anterior lobes when fused to just below apex, minutely, glandular ciliolate. Corolla tube glabrous or sparsely hairy inside, 3.7-5 x 1.3-1.7 mm, cylindric, longer than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, elliptic or ovate, obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), patent to recurved, shorter than or equalling corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3.7-5.5 mm; anthers magenta, 1.4-1.7 mm. Ovary 1-1.4 (-1.6) mm; ovules 10-15 per locule; style 3.8-8 mm. Capsules obtuse, 4-5.5 x 2.5-3.5 mm, loculicidal split extending to approximately 1/3-way to base (although sometimes splitting further when very old). Seeds flattened (sometimes strongly), ellipsoid (sometimes broadly), weakly winged, pale brown, 1.1-1.8 x 0.8-1.1 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

(October-) November-January (-March)

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. 222.

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=1999



Caption: Mt Luxmore, Fiordland
Photographer: Jesse Bythell



Caption: Caples Valley
Photographer: John Barkla