



Veronica petriei

Current Threat Status (2018):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Mountains of Otago and Southland, South Island, including Mount Repulse, the Pisa Range, and the Forbes, Humboldt, Livingstone, Hector, Eyre, Garvie and Takitimu mountains.

Habitat:

It grows on alpine rocks and scree.

Features*:

Subshrub or spreading low shrub to 0.3 m tall. Branches decumbent. old stems red-brown or brown; branchlets green or purplish, glabrous or minutely puberulent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1.5-6 (-9) mm; leaves not readily abscising, persisting on stem, or decaying leaving basal parts attached. Leaf bud more or less indistinct and tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves; sinus narrow and acute. Leaves decussate to subdistichous, connate, erectopatent to recurved; lamina obovate or oblong or elliptic (often narrowly), slightly fleshy, concave (shallowly), (4-) 5-7.5 (-12) x (2-) 2.5-5 (-5.5) mm; apex obtuse to rounded; midrib slightly thickened below; margin not cartilaginous, not thickened, minutely ciliate, occasionally tinged red; upper surface green, dull, without evident or with few stomata, hairy toward base; lower surface green; petiole (0.5-) 1-2.5 (-3) mm, hairy along margins and above. Inflorescences with 18-62 flowers, terminal, unbranched (sometimes with numerous sterile bracts towards the base), 0.8-2.5 (-6) cm; peduncle 0.1-0.7 cm; rachis 0.5-4.2 cm. Bracts alternate, linear to narrowly ovate sometimes minutely hairy outside (especially on lower, sterile bracts). Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels always shorter than bracts, 0.5-2.5 mm (longest towards base of inflorescence). Calyx 4-5 (-6.5) mm; lobes linear (usually) to narrowly oblong, acute to subacute. Corolla tube glabrous; tube of hermaphrodite flowers (4.2-) 5-5.5 (-7) x 1.5-2 mm, cylindric, longer than (usually) or equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis. elliptic (usually narrowly), subacute to obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to recurved, equalling or shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect, 1.3-1.7 mm (hermaphrodite flowers); anthers magenta, 0.9-1.5 (-2) mm; sterile anthers of female flowers magenta. Ovary conical, 2-2.5 mm; ovules 8-15 per locule; style 3-6 mm; stigma more conspicuous in female flowers. Capsules acute, 4-4.5 x 1.7-2.3 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/3-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid to discoid, brown, 0.7-1.1 x 0.6-0.9 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.3 mm.

Flowering:

(October-) December-February (-March)

Fruiting:

(November-) March

***Attribution:**

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

References and further reading:

Bayly M. and Kellow A. 2006. An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press: Wellington

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

Wagstaff, S.J., Bayly, M. J., Garnock-Jones, P. J. and Albach, D. C. 2002. Classification, origin, and diversification of the New Zealand *Hebes* (Scrophulariaceae). *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 89:38-63.



Caption: Hebe petriei, Hector Mountains

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Mt Burns, January

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2000