



Veronica vernicosa

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Northern South Island, from Goulard Downs in the northwest to the St James Range in the south, and as far east as the Robertson Range, near Picton.

Habitat:

Grows in beech forest at a range of altitudes, often at or near the treeline.

Features*:

Spreading low shrub to 0.8 m tall. Branches spreading or ascending, old stems dark grey or brown; branchlets green or brown, hairs bifarious to uniform (hairs on leaf decurrencies often finer and shorter than those between); internodes 1.5-7 mm; leaf decurrencies evident or obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus broad and acute or almost shield shaped. Leaves subdistichous, patent or erecto-patent; lamina elliptic or obovate, very slightly concave, 5-20 x (2.5-) 3.5-7.5 (-8) mm; apex apiculate and obtuse or subacute; midrib depressed to grooved above and thickened below (at least slightly); margin sometimes cartilaginous, glabrous or ciliolate; upper surface dark green, glossy, with few or without evident stomata, hairy along midrib (usually) or glabrous; lower surface dull or slightly glossy (but less so than upper surface). Inflorescences with (9-) 12-35 (-43) flowers, lateral, unbranched, (1.6-) 2.5-5 (-7.2) cm; peduncle (0.2-) 0.5-1.2 (-1.4) cm; rachis (1.2-) 1.6-5.5 (-6) cm. Bracts mostly opposite and decussate below and becoming alternate above or alternate, ovate or deltoid, obtuse to acute, glabrous outside. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels 0-3.5 mm. Calyx (1.2-) 1.4-1.8 (-2.5) mm; lobes ovate to elliptic, almost always obtuse or rarely subacute (e.g. in some material from Picton and Pelorus Sound). Corolla tube glabrous, 0.6-1.5 x 0.8-1.3 mm, shorter than calyx; lobes white at anthesis, ovate (sometimes narrowly) or elliptic, obtuse, suberect to patent, longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3-5 (-5.5) mm; anthers pale pink or white, approximately 1.25-1.75 mm. Ovary 0.7-1.4 mm; ovules approximately 9-10 per locule; style 2.7-5.5 mm. Capsules subacute or obtuse, 2.8-4.2 x 1.6-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid or obovoid or oblong, pale brown, 1.3-1.5 x 0.9-1.1 mm, micropylar rim 0.3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

(October-) November-January

Fruiting:

(December-) February-May (-September)

*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. 226.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2020



Caption: Cobb ridge, November
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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