



Veronica birleyi

Common Name(s):

Birleys Veronica

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Main Divide from Mt Westland to northern Fiordland; also the Remarkables, Eyre and Hector Mountains)

Habitat:

High alpine (up to 2900 m a.s.l.). Colonising rock shelves, ledges and crevices.

Features*:

Subshrub, 20–200 mm tall. Old stems brown to grey. Branches decumbent. Branchlets brown or purplish. Vegetative internodes 2–8 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent (rarely a few glandular hairs also present). Leaves decussate, erecto-patent to spreading. Lamina obovate, 4.0–12.0 × 2.5–11.0 mm. Upper surface of leaves greyish dark green or purple, dull. Under surface of leaves dark green or purple, dull. Leaf hairs dense, on all parts of leaf. Apex obtuse or rounded or retuse or truncate. Base cuneate. Margin ciliate and glandular-ciliate (very few glandular hairs), crenate (deeply). Marginal teeth or lobes in 1–3 pairs. Petiole 0–1 mm long. Inflorescence a solitary flower or a pair of flowers (rarely 3), 0.2–0.6 cm long at fruiting. Indumentum of peduncle, rachis, and pedicels sparse to moderately dense.

Eglandular hairs of inflorescence patent, white. Peduncle 2–40 mm long, eglandular-pubescent; hairs all around peduncle. Bracts paired and opposite, obtuse, eglandular-hairy adaxially and eglandular-hairy abaxially (usually with some glandular hairs), spatulate (narrowly). Bract margins entire. Pedicels erecto-patent at anthesis, straight at fruiting, 0.3–1.0 mm long, glabrous or eglandular-pubescent; hairs all around pedicel. Flowers: Calyx 4-lobed, 4–6 mm long. Calyx lobes oblong or elliptic, subacute or obtuse. Calyx hairs on both abaxial and adaxial surfaces, mixed eglandular and glandular. Calyx lobe margins entire. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides absent. Corolla 7–10 mm diameter. Corolla tube 2–3 × 1 mm wide, glabrous. Corolla lobes glabrous. Posterior corolla lobe circular to elliptic, emarginate or divided in two, 3.0–4.0 × 1.8–3.0 mm. Lateral corolla lobes elliptic, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 4–5 × 4–4.5 mm. Anterior corolla lobe elliptic, obtuse, 4.0–4.5 × 2.5–3.0 mm. Stamen filaments white, 2–3 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers pink or magenta or mauve, 1.0–1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid, acute, glabrous, 1.0–1.5 mm long. Style 1.0–1.5 mm long. Stigma 0.3–0.4 mm wide. Capsules narrowly angustiseptate, emarginate, 3–4 × 3–4 mm, 0.8–1.0 mm thick, glabrous. Septicidal split of capsule extending 1/4 way to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending 1/2 way to base. Seeds c.10–15 per locule, strongly flattened, smooth-surfaced, ellipsoid, straw yellow to pale brown, 0.8–1.0 × 0.6–0.7 mm.

Flowering:

November - December

Fruiting:

December - March

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (5 October 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones and Lloyd (2003).

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Lloyd, D.G. 2003: A taxonomic revision of *Parahebe* (Plantaginaceae) in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 42: 181–232.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2021



Caption: Hector Mountains

Photographer: John Barkla



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