



Parahebe spectabilis

Common Name(s):

Takitimu Parahebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic, South Island, Takitimu Mountains, where it is only known between Tower and Excelsior Peak, and from cirques east of that ridge

Habitat:

High alpine to nival ledges and snow banks.

Features*:

Subshrub, 30-200 tall. Old stems brown. Branches decumbent to ascending. Branchlets red-brown or purplish. Vegetative internodes 1-4 mm long. Stem pubescence uniform, eglandular pubescent and glandular pubescent. Leaves decussate, erecto-patent to spreading. Lamina obovate to spatulate, 4.5-13.0 × 2.5-6.0 mm. Upper surface of leaves dark green or purple, dull. Under surface of leaves dark green or fruiting, 2.5-5 mm long, eglandular-pubescent and glandular-pubescent; hairs all around pedicel. Flowers: Calyx 4-lobed, 6.5-10.0 mm long. Calyx lobes spatulate, subacute to obtuse. Calyx hairs on both both surfaces, mixed eglandular and glandular (upper surface glandular hairs few). Calyx lobe margins entire. Corolla white at anthesis. Nectar guides absent. Corolla throat same colour as lobes. Corolla 18-25 mm diameter. Corolla tube 2.5-4.5 mm long, 1.5-2.0 mm wide, glabrous. Corolla lobes glabrous. Posterior corolla lobe circular or obovate, obtuse, 10-12 × 10-12 mm. Lateral corolla lobes circular, obtuse, flat, not enfolding stamens, 10-13 × 8-11 mm. Anterior corolla lobe circular or obovate, obtuse, 9-12 × 10-12 mm. Stamen filaments white, 3-4 mm long, not narrowed at base. Anthers magenta or purple, 1.2-1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid, acute or subacute, eglandular hairy and glandular hairy (at apex), 2-2.5 mm long. Style 3.5-4.5 mm long. Stigma 0.4-0.6 mm wide. Capsules, narrowly angustiseptate, emarginate, 4-5 × 4-5 mm, 1-2 mm thick, hairy. Hairs eglandular and glandular. Septicidal split of capsule extending 1/2 way to base to base. Loculicidal split of capsule extending to base. Seeds ellipsoid, straw yellow or pale brown, 0.9-1.0 × 0.5-0.7 mm.

Flowering:

Unknown - has been collected in flower in January

Fruiting:

Unknown - has been collected in fruit in January

Threats:

Unknown, though it is unlikely to be threatened by browsing animals or weeds because of its stature, apparent habitat preferences and altitudinal ranges. Further field work is needed to clarify its status.

*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=2023