



Veronica elliptica

Common Name(s):

kokomuka, shore hebe, shore koromiko

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Indigenous. North, South, Stewart, Snares, Auckland and Campbell Islands. In the North Island scarce, known only from the west coast in scattered locations on the south Taranaki coast, on Kapiti Island, and Titahi Bay. Naturalised on Chatham (Rekohu) Island. Indigenous also to the Falkland Islands. Also naturalised on Maatsuyker Island, Tasmania

Habitat:

Grows in coastal areas, often in exposed places on rocks

Features*:

Bushy shrub to 2 m tall. Branches erect, old stems brown; branchlets green or red-brown or reddish-black (initial cork formation often in regions between decurrencies), pubescent. hairs strictly bifarious or uniform; internodes (1-) 4-13 (-17.5) mm; leaf decurrencies evident (and often with a narrow ridge along medial line). Leaf bud distinct; sinus square to oblong. Leaves decussate or sometimes more or less subdistichous (with petioles twisted so that leaves face in more or less one direction), erecto-patent to patent; lamina broadly to narrowly elliptic or oblong or obovate or oblanceolate, coriaceous, flat or m-shaped in transverse section, (5-) 12-31 (-42) x (3-) 6-12 (-18) mm; apex plicate and mucronate or acute; base cuneate to truncate; margin sometimes cartilaginous, conspicuously long-pubescent (with dense, tangled hairs; except at apex), entire or minutely crenulate; upper surface green or dark green, dull or slightly glossy, with many stomata, minutely hairy along midrib; lower surface light green; petiole 1-4 (-8.5) mm, glabrous or sometimes hairy along margins (but hairs much shorter and more sparse than those on rest of leaf margin). Inflorescences with (3-) 6-14 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 1.5-5.1 cm, shorter to longer than subtending leaves; peduncle 0.4-1.7 cm; rachis 1.1-3.6 cm. Bracts alternate (lowermost often a more or less subopposite pair or a slightly offset "whorl" of three), deltoid, acute or subacute. Flowers, hermaphrodite. Pedicels (1.5-) 3-8 (-9) mm. Calyx (3.5-) 4-6.5 mm; lobes lanceolate or ovate or elliptic, obtuse to acute, with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia (eglandular most conspicuous, often long and tangled). Corolla tube hairy inside or glabrous, 3-4 x 3.5-4 mm, shortly and broadly funnelform, shorter than or equalling calyx; lobes mauve or blue at anthesis, ovate or elliptic, obtuse or subacute, patent to recurved, longer than corolla tube. Stamen filaments white or mauve, 4.5-5.5 mm, anthers mauve, 2.4-3.2 mm. Nectarial disc glabrous or densely ciliate. Ovary 1.7-2 mm; ovules 45-61 per locule, in 2-3 layers; style 4-6.5 mm. Capsules, subacute, 5.5-8.5 x (3.5-) 4-5.5 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base (mostly 1/4 - 1/3). Seeds flattened, broad ellipsoid to discoid, winged or not winged, straw-yellow to brown, 0.9-2 x 0.9-1.5 mm, micropylar rim 3-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

(August-) November-March (-June)

Fruiting:

November-April (-October)

Threats:

Not Threatened

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

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Heenan, P. B. 1994. The origin and identification of *Hebe xfranciscana* and its cultivars (Scrophulariaceae). Horticulture in New Zealand 5: 15-20

Metcalf, L. J. 2001. International Register of *Hebe* Cultivars. Lincoln: Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture (Inc.).

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Caption: Curio Bay, Catlins

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Enderby Island

Photographer: Jane Gosden