



Veronica parviflora

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Eastern, central and southern North Island (including the Hen and Chickens and Great Barrier Islands), and northeast South Island, ranging from near Russell (North Island) to near Keekerengu (South Island).

Habitat:

It generally grows in scrub on hillsides, along streams and at forest margins, from near coastal to montane situations.

Features*:

Bushy shrub or small tree (often highly branched toward the tips, and dome-shaped when young) to 7.5 (-12) m tall. Branches erect, old stems pale grey; branchlets progressing from olive-green to brown or red-brown, puberulent or rarely glabrous, hairs bifarious (mostly) or uniform; internodes (1.5-) 3-17 (-20) mm; leaf decurrencies obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to recurved; lamina lanceolate or linear-lanceolate, subcoriaceous, flat or concave, (8-) 25-60 (-76) x 1.5-7 mm; apex whitish, acute or shortly acuminate; 2 lateral secondary veins sometimes evident at base of fresh leaves; margin scabrous or minutely pubescent (with short, stiff, basally-swollen, antrorse hairs); upper surface light green, dull, usually with many stomata, hairy along midrib; lower surface light green, not pitted (although frequently with many small glandular hairs) or sometimes faintly pitted with small depressions that each contain a twin-headed glandular hair, or often glabrous. Inflorescences with (20-) 40-80 (-130) flowers, lateral, unbranched, (2-) 4-10 (-12) cm; peduncle (0.35-) 0.5-1.9 cm; rachis (1.6-) 3-10.2 cm. Bracts alternate, ovate to deltoid or oblong, acute to obtuse. Flowers hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels (0.3-) 0.5-3.5 (-4) mm, hairy or glabrous, sometimes recurved in fruit. Calyx 1.5-2.3 (-2.7) mm; lobes ovate to elliptic (often broadly), obtuse to acute (sometimes on one inflorescence). Corolla tube hairy inside; tube of hermaphrodite flowers 2.1-3.8 x 1.4-3 (-3.8) mm, cylindric or slightly expanded in lower half, longer than calyx; lobe, white tinged with pink or mauve at anthesis, ovate (sometimes broadly), obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to recurved, sometimes with a few hairs toward base on inner surface. Stamen filaments incurved at apex in bud, 3-5 mm; anthers magenta, 1.5-2.2 mm; sterile anthers of female flowers very pale lilac or light brown, approximately 1 mm (when dry). Ovary approximately 0.8-1 mm; ovules approximately 8-12 per locule; style 3.5-6 mm, Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.5-3.5 x 1.4-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-3/4-way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, ellipsoid to discoid, weakly winged, straw-yellow to pale brown, 0.9-1.8 x 0.8-1.4 mm, micropylar rim 0.1 (-0.5) mm.

Flowering:

(September-) January-March (-August)

Fruiting:

(January-) February-June (-November)

*Attribution:

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

References and further reading:

Bayly, M. J., Garnock-Jones, P. J., Mitchell, K. A., Markham, K. R. and Brownsey, P. J. 2000. A taxonomic revision of the *Hebe parviflora* complex (Scrophulariaceae), based on morphology and flavonoid chemistry. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 38: 165-90.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 174-176.

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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2308



Caption: Pukahunui valley, December

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: At Pukahunui valley, December

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth