



## *Veronica tairawhiti*

### **Common Name(s):**

Wairoa koromiko

### **Current Threat Status (2012):**

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### **Distribution:**

Endemic. North Island, East Cape Region (from the upper Motu River east), Gisborne, Wairoa (Northern Hawkes Bay) south to Mahia Peninsula.

### **Habitat:**

Primarily a coastal shrub of low shrubland, often overlying calcareous mud or siltstones, or base-rich turbidite (flysch) sequences. Will tolerate some browsing pressure and as such may be seen invading pasture in some parts of its range.

### **Features\*:**

Heavily branched, bushy shrub or small tree up to 3 x 2 m. Branches erect, brown to grey-brown; branchlets green maturing red-brown to almost black, bifariously or uniformly puberulent or glabrous; internodes 7-15 mm; leaf scars evident to obscure. Leaf bud distinct, without sinus. Leaves 45-150 x 5-11 mm, upper surface green with broad yellow midrib, undersides paler, linear, linear-lanceolate to lanceolate (tapering evenly from broad base), firmly fleshy, flat or m-shaped in cross-section, recurved, apex acute, base abruptly cuneate, secondary veins, faint but evident in young leaves; leaf margin puberulent, entire or with a few distant teeth. Inflorescence a lateral, unbranched raceme 68-150 mm long, bearing 120-180 flowers; peduncle 6-23 mm; rachis 55-140 mm. Bracts alternate, narrowly deltoid, acute; outside hairy. Flowers white with pedicels 1.3-2 mm long, usually shorter than bracts. Calyx 2-2.5 mm; lobes lanceolate, acute, occasionally with exposed surface hairy. Corolla tube 3-3.5 x 1.5-1.8 mm, inner surface hairy, expanded in lower half, longer than calyx; lobes white or pale mauve at anthesis, elliptic, oblong, to obtuse, mostly erect or suberect to patent, shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3-5 mm; anthers 2-2.3 mm, mauve or violet. Ovary 1-1.2 mm, ovoid to ellipsoid; style 3.5-4 mm. Capsules 2.7-5.2 x 1.8-2.6 mm, pale brown, subacute. Seeds 0.8-1.2 x 0.5-1 mm, straw-yellow to brown, flattened, ellipsoid, obovoid or discoid.

### **Flowering:**

January - April

### **Fruiting:**

February - December

### **Threats:**

A widespread, naturally uncommon, biological sparse species of coastal to montane shrubland habitats. In some part of its range it has declined to scrub clearance and the spread of weed species. However other populations seem to be stable, and some (such as those on the Mahia Peninsula) have even colonised pasture.

### **\*Attribution:**

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on Bayly & Kellow (2006)

### **References and further reading:**

Bayly M.; Kellow A. 2006: An Illustrated Guide to New Zealand Hebes. Te Papa Press: Wellington

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=267](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=267)



**Caption:** Hebe tairawhiti close up of flowering sprigg

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



**Caption:** May 2007.

**Photographer:** Peter de Lange