



Traversia baccharoides

Common Name(s):

Traversia

Current Threat Status (2012):

Declining

Distribution:

Endemic. Northern South Island (Nelson, Marlborough to northern Canterbury)

Habitat:

Montane forest to subalpine shrublands (700 - 1400 m a.s.l.). Often found at forest margins on cliff faces, on steep rubble-strewn slopes, amongst boulders or at the bottom of talus slopes in and amongst other low shrubs.

Features:

Small densely to openly branched often somewhat straggly, viscid sticky, resinous, dark green to yellow green shrub up to 1 x 1 m. Trunk and older branches clad in loose, papery pinkish-grey to pale brown bark; bark peeling or flaking readily. Branchlets slender, brittle, clad in persistent leaf base remnants, deeply and longitudinally grooved; young branchlets distinctly resinous and sticky. Emergent leaves and leaf buds viscid sticky. Leaves 50-80 x 15-30 mm, dark glossy green, obovate to rhomboid, obtuse to subacute, cuneately narrowed to decurrent base, coarsely serrated in upper expanded third, subcoriaceous to coriaceous, venation conspicuous. Subfloral leaves smaller otherwise similar to branchlet leaves, though more finely serrate, grading into bracts subtending inflorescences. Inflorescence a lax corymb of 1-12 capitula. Pedicels 2-5 mm long, slender, usually in pairs, bracteolate, extremely viscid. Involucre of 6-8, linear-oblong, obtuse, rigid and coriaceous, viscid involucre bracts up to 6 mm long, margins membranous. Capitula 8 x 10 mm, receptacle alveolate; florets 12-15, perfect, pale pink or white, narrow-tubular to cylindric, campanulate above, with 5 linear lobes up to 2.5 mm long, these spreading to recurved, > pappus hairs; stamens prominent and exerted. Cypsela 2.8-4 mm long, buff to grey nut-brown, narrowly elliptic, with slight waist below pappus at apex, ribs 9-10, broad and flat; resin ducts prominent, rib-like, rounded, translucent, golden. Pappus unequally biseriate, 3.5-5 mm long, minutely barbellate.

Flowering:

December - March

Fruiting:

February - June

Threats:

A naturally uncommon sporadically occurring species

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=331



Caption: Cobb Valley (January)

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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