



## *Veronica rivalis*

### Common Name(s):

Northland River Koromiko

### Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

### Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, Northland where it is known from both the Kerikeri River and Puketotara Stream (near Kerikeri), Waipapa River (Puketi Forest) and Waipoua River.

### Habitat:

A forest dwelling, rheophytic species of stream and river banks that are prone to frequent flooding.

### Features\*:

Spindly, brittle, openly branched 1-1.5 m tall shrub of riverine habitats, favouring sites prone to sudden flooding. Branches erect, rather brittle, brown to grey-brown; branchlets spindly, green, bifariously or occasionally uniformly puberulent, or rarely glabrous; internodes 1.5-29 mm; leaf scars weakly evident or obscure. Leaf bud distinct without sinus. Leaves 15-118 x 3-12 mm, dull dark green to yellow-green, linear to linear-lanceolate, membranous, apex acute to obtuse, margin ciliolate, entire or finely, and distantly denticulate. Inflorescence a lateral, usually unbranched raceme 27-135 mm long, bearing 13-81 flowers; peduncle 5-19 mm; rachis 2-117 mm, longer than or equal to subtending leaves. Bracts alternate, narrowly deltoid or lanceolate, acute, outer surface hairy. Flowers white or tinged pale mauve; pedicels 0.5-5 mm, longer than or equal to bracts, usually recurved in fruit. Calyx 2-3.5 mm; lobes very narrowly deltoid or lanceolate, acute to acuminate, densely to sparsely hairy on the outer surface. Corolla tube 1.3-2.8 x 1.6-01.8 mm, white to pale mauve, shortly funnellform, much shorter than or equal to calyx, internally densely hairy, externally rarely so; lobes white or tinged pale mauve at anthesis, lanceolate, acute, or subacute, suberect to patent, usually longer than corolla tube (sometime shorter), sometimes ciliate and/or hairy on the outer surface. Stamen filaments 4-6.5 mm; anthers 1.9-2.2 mm, mauve. Ovary 0.9-1.2 mm, narrowly ovoid, usually sparsely or minutely hairy; style 3.5-5.5 mm. Capsules 2-3.5 x 1.6-3 mm, pale brown to brown, obtuse or subacute, occasionally sparsely hairy. Seeds 0.9-1.4 x 0.9 -1.1 mm, straw-yellow, strongly flattened, ellipsoid to discoid, weakly winged.

### Flowering:

January - June

### Fruiting:

January - December

### Threats:

A very localised Northland endemic which has its stronghold in the Waipapa River area of Puketi Forest and probably also the Waipoua River. It is close to extinction along the Kerikeri due mainly to the spread of aggressive weeds (many derived from nearby houses). However, aside from the decline known to be happening there it seems secure elsewhere. In fact the exact distribution of this species remains unknown, and it may be even more widespread than currently believed

### \*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (12 August 2005): Description adapted from 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=514](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=514)



**Caption:** *Hebe acutiflora* (in cultivation)

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth



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