



Veronica adamsii

Common Name(s):

Adam's Koromiko

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (Te Pahi (Unuwahao Bush))

Habitat:

A lithophyte confined to sparsely vegetated, exposed cliff, bluff and rock outcrops within lowland/coastal forest. It is often found growing in and around clumps of *Astelia banksii* A.Cunn.

Features*:

Low spreading shrub up to 1 m tall. Old stems grey-brown; branchlets yellowish brown, drying dark, glabrous or minutely puberulent when young; internodes 3–10× diameter. Leaf bud usually with small rounded sinus, sometimes sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to patent; lamina lanceolate to narrowly elliptic, coriaceous, glossy bronze green above, slightly duller beneath, 30–100 × 7–28 mm, glabrous except for minute glands and short eglandular hairs on midrib above, young leaves sometimes ciliolate or minutely glandular along margins; apex subacute to acute; base abruptly narrowed to short ciliolate petiole; margin entire, glabrous, pale, weakly bevelled. Inflorescences lateral, racemose, 50–150 mm long; flowers distant, spiralled. Peduncle and rachis with minute spreading eglandular hairs; peduncle 10–30 mm long. Bracts linear, acute, ciliolate, usually shorter than or equalling pedicels, rarely longer. Pedicels erecto-patent to spreading, 2.5–4.0 mm long. Flowers weakly turpentine-scented, protandrous. Calyx lobes broadly ovate, acuminate, overlapping at edges, 3.0 × 1.5–2.0 mm; outer surface with scattered minute sessile glands; margin eglandular- and glandular-ciliolate. Corolla pale pinkish mauve, fading dirty white; tube 2.5–4.0 mm long, broad and rounded at base, puberulent inside; lobes suberect, ovate to lanceolate, subauriculate at base, acute, 4.0–5.0 × 2.5–4.0 mm. Anthers pale mauve, acute, 2.5 mm long; filaments pinkish mauve, fading white, 6–7 mm long, curving outwards after dehiscence. Nectarial disk glabrous, fleshy, dark green. Style white, glabrous, 6–7 mm long; stigma subcapitate. Ovary cylindrical, glabrous, 1.0–1.2 × 0.8 mm. Capsule ovoid, acute, pale brown, 4.5–6.0 × 3.5–4.0 mm, septical to base, loculicidal to 1/2. Seeds brown, elliptic to subcircular, strongly flattened, smooth, 2.0–2.5 × 1.5–2.0 mm

Flowering:

(January-) March - September (- December) - often has two peaks, March and September.

Threats:

A comprehensive survey in April 1991 located c.700 adult plants in two main areas within Unuwahao Bush. The species is naturally uncommon because there is very little open bluff habitat available for it to colonise. The main threat, feral goats were removed in January 1991. However, all the known populations are on private land. Currently the steep nature of its habitat and the Waahi Tapu status of Unuwahao Bush protects this species from major land use changes.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange (12 August 2005): Description from Garnock-Jones and Clarkson (1991)

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Clarkson, B.D. 1991: *Hebe adamsii* and *H. murrellii* (Scrophulariaceae) reinstated. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 32 : 11-15

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=515



Caption: Tarure Hill, Unuwahao Bush, Te Pahi

Photographer: Gillian Crowcroft



Caption: *Hebe adamsii* habitat, Unuwahao Bluffs, April 1995

Photographer: Peter de Lange

Fruiting:

Fruit may be found throughout the year.