



Veronica arganthera

Common Name(s):

Fiordland Limestone Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (eastern areas of Fiordland National Park)

Habitat:

A subalpine scrub developed on mostly south facing limestone bluffs, outcrops and cliff faces, in and around sink holes and on limestone talus and colluvium, usually at or near the tree limit.

Features*:

Shrub, often rounded or spreading, to 0.5 m tall. Branches ascending to erect; old stems brown; youngest branchlets green; internodes 2-8 mm long, bifariously eglandular-pubescent. Leaf bud about as long as mature leaves, sinus narrow, acute. Leaves lamina oblong to elliptic, coriaceous or subcoriaceous, m-shaped in transverse section, 12-38 x 5-11 mm; apex subacute and mucronate; base cuneate; midrib thickened beneath and depressed to grooved above; secondary veins not evident; margin entire, translucent, bevelled or rounded, minutely papillate or denticulate; upper surface green or yellowish green, dull, hairy along midrib; lower surface pale green, dull, glabrous. Petiole 3-4 mm long, uniformly eglandular-pubescent. Inflorescences with 15-25 flowers, lateral, racemose, simple or with 1-2 branches at base, 20-50 mm long, about = or > subtending leaves, flowers opening in acropetal sequence, usually all developing to maturity; peduncle 8-10 mm long, eglandular-pubescent; rachis 150 mm long, eglandular pubescent; bracts opposite and decussate at least below, sometimes becoming alternate above, subacute to acute, eglandular-ciliate, linear to lanceolate; pedicels < bracts, eglandular-pubescent, erecto-patent at flowering and fruiting, 0.5-5.0 mm long. Flowers hermaphrodite. Calyx terete, 4-lobed, equally divided, 2.5-3.5 mm long; lobes all similar, lanceolate to elliptic, obtuse, eglandular-ciliate; margins scarious. Corolla white; tube glabrous, 1-2 mm long, c.1 mm wide, cylindric, > calyx; lobes glabrous, > tube; posterior lobe circular to elliptic, obtuse, erecto-patent; lateral lobes elliptic or ovate, obtuse, erecto-patent, cuneate at base; anterior lobe ovate, obtuse, patent to recurved, not enfolding style; corolla throat white. Stamens: filaments white, 4-6 mm long; anthers white, c 1.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous. Ovary ovoid, glabrous, 1.7-2.0 mm long, bilocular; style 5-7 mm long, glabrous, white; stigma capitate. Capsules acute, dark brown, 3-4 x 2.5-3.5 mm, glabrous; septicidal split extending to base, loculicidal split extending 2-way to 1/3-way to base; capsule valves with pronounced midrib. Seeds 0.6-1.0 x 0.5-0.8 mm, straw yellow to pale brown.

Flowering:

December - May

Fruiting:

January - August

Threats:

A narrow range limestone endemic that is known from very few sites and adult plants. It is vulnerable at many sites to deer browsing. Seedlings though common rarely reach maturity due to these browsing animals

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (18 August 2006). Description adapted from Garnock-Jones et al. (2000)

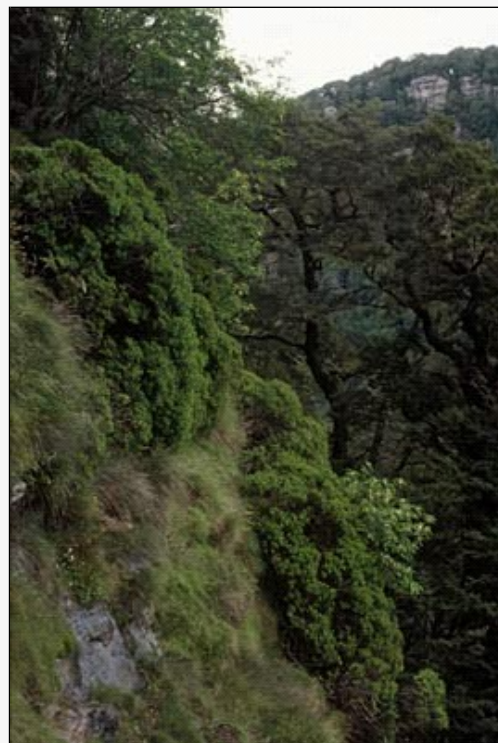
References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Bayly, M.J.; Lee, W.G.; Rance, B.D. 2000: *Hebe arganthera* (Scrophulariaceae), a new species from calcareous outcrops in Fiordland, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 38: 379-388

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=518



Caption: Limestone Bluffs in Takahe Valley

Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd



Caption: Fruits and foliage

Photographer: Kelvin Lloyd