



Veronica biggarii

Common Name(s):

Biggar's Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Southland, Eyre and Thomson mountains and Mid Dome)

Habitat:

Alpine. On rock outcrops, cliffs and bluffs also in open snow tussock (Chionochloa Zotov) grassland

Features*:

Small, erect to sparingly branched spreading, bushy shrub to 0.5 m tall. Branches spreading, decumbent, ascending or erect, old stems grey; branchlets green, brown, red-brown or purplish, puberulent, pubescent or glabrous, hairs bifarious; internodes 3-12 mm. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to patent; lamina narrowly to broadly elliptic, coriaceous, concave or flat, 5-20 × 2-10 mm; apex acute to rounded; midrib not thickened, rarely evident in fresh leaves; margin glabrous, often tinged red; upper surface glaucous, glabrous; lower surface glaucous. Inflorescences with 8-25 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 20-50 mm long; peduncle 5-18 mm; rachis 15-25 mm. Bracts alternate, linear to narrowly deltoid, subacute to acute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels < or = to bracts, 1-3 mm long. Calyx 1.8-3.0 mm, 4-5-lobed; lobes lanceolate, subacute or acute, with mixed glandular/eglandular cilia. Corolla tube glabrous, 1.5-1.8 × 2.0-2.5 mm, contracted at base, = or > calyx; lobes white or tinged pink, elliptic, obtuse or subacute, erect to recurved, > corolla tube. Stamen filaments slightly diverging with age, 3-4 mm, anthers magenta, 1.6-1.8 mm. Ovary 1.4-1.8 mm; style 3.5-5.0 mm. Capsules usually pinkish-red when immature, acute, 3.5-4.0 × 2.0-3.0 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/3 way to base. Seeds strongly to weakly flattened, ellipsoid, oblong-ellipsoid to irregular, straw-yellow to pale brown, 0.8-1.3 × 0.6-0.8 mm.

Flowering:

October – June

Fruiting:

November – May

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic locally common within its key habitats and under no obvious threats.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (3 August 2006). Description modified from Bayley and 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=520



Caption: Hebe biggarii

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Kingston

Photographer: John Barkla