



Veronica punicea

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. North Island, North Cape area only where it is confined to the 120 ha exposure of serpentinite rocks at the Surville Cliffs.

Habitat:

Confined to serpentinite (ultramafic) rocks and associated soils of the Surville Cliffs and adjacent plateau, at North Cape. Here it grows in low windshorn scrub, on open clay pans, on boulder fall, adjacent semi-stable scree and along cliff faces.

Features*:

Low spreading to suberect shrub up to 1.5 x 0.7 m. Branches decumbent, sub-erect to erect, older stems grey or grey-brown; branchlets green or yellowish, finely puberulent; internodes 1.5-2.3 mm; leaf decurrencies obscure. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves patent to erecto-patent, 16-75 x 6-25 mm; upper surface dark green to green, glossy, under side similar but paler and dull; lamina narrowly to broadly elliptic to oblong-elliptic or obovate, coriaceous, flat or m-shaped in cross-section, apex often apiculate, obtuse to subacute, margin finely ciliolate or glabrous, hairy along midrib. Inflorescence a 16-60-flowered, lateral, unbranched raceme, 20-100 mm long, often with many unopened flowers toward apex; peduncle 6-35 mm, rachis 15-75 mm. Bracts alternate (lowermost pair often subopposite), ovate, broadly ovate, elliptic, or narrowly deltoid, obtuse, or subacute. Flowers with pedicels 1-7 mm and always longer than bracts. Calyx 1.9-4 mm; lobes ovate, obtuse or subacute. Corolla tube 3-5.5 mm, hairy or glabrous inside, longer than calyx; lobes magenta to deep violet at anthesis, rose pink or violet with age, ovate, broadly ovate to elliptic, obtuse, erect to suberect, longer or shorter than corolla tube, sometimes hairy inside; corolla throat magenta or violet. Stamen filaments 5.5-10.5 mm, magenta or violet; anthers 0.9-1.6 mm, red-purple. Ovary 0.9-1.5 mm; style 7.5-11.8 mm. Capsules 4.5-8.5 x 4-5 mm, subacute, hairy. Seeds 1.7-2.4 x 1.2-1.8 mm, pale to dark brown, broad ellipsoid to discoid, finely papillate, flattened.

Flowering:

April - October (but sporadic flowering common all year round)

Fruiting:

July- January (but fruits may be present throughout the year)

Threats:

Abundant within its only known habitat, the serpentinite rock exposure of the Surville Cliffs, North Cape. This unique habitat is threatened by fires, weed invasions and possums, pigs and feral horses and cattle.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet Prepared by P.J. de Lange (1 November 2009). Description based on de Lange (1997)

References and further reading:

de Lange, P.J. 1997: *Hebe brevifolia* (Scrophulariaceae); an ultramafic endemic of the Surville Cliffs, North Cape, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 35(1): 1-8.

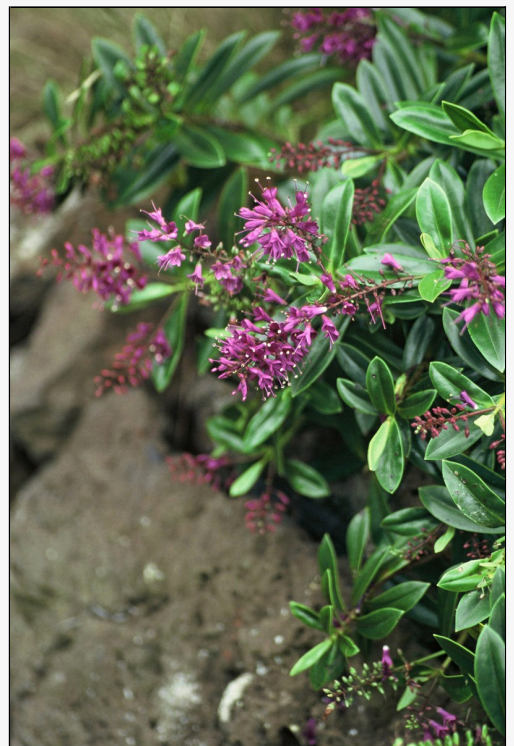
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=521



Caption: Surville Cliffs, October 1996

Photographer: Peter de Lange



Caption: Ex. Surville Cliffs, February 1999

Photographer: G. M. Crowcroft