



Veronica baylyi

Common Name(s):

Red Hills Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (Mt Dun and Red Hills)

Habitat:

Montane to alpine in sparse *Chionochloa defracta* Connor dominated grassland, ultramafic boulder field and talus slopes, and under short, sparse scrub.

Features*:

Spreading low or bushy shrub to 0.6 m tall. Branches erect, old stems dark grey, brown or black; branchlets brown or red-brown, pubescent. Leaf bud distinct; sinus small and acute. Leaves erect to patent; lamina elliptic or obovate, coriaceous, concave, 6.2-12.3 × 4.4-9.1 mm; apex obtuse or subacute; base cuneate or truncate; midrib thickened below (sometimes weakly), sometimes evident on the undersides of fresh leaves; margin minutely papillate; upper surface light to dark olive-green, glaucous or glaucescent, dull with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface olive-green, glaucous or glaucescent; petiole 1.0-1.5 mm, glabrous, rarely hairy along margins especially near base. Inflorescences with 6-22 flowers, usually lateral, rarely terminal, unbranched 12-30 mm long; peduncle 6-9 mm; rachis 13-25 mm. Bracts alternate or opposite, ovate or lanceolate, obtuse, subacute or acuminate. Flowers hermaphrodite or female on different plants. Pedicels absent or always shorter than bracts, 0-0.8 mm. Calyx 1.8-2.5 mm, 4-5-lobed, lobes elliptic, obtuse. Corolla tube glabrous; 1.2-1.7 × 1.9-2.1 mm, shortly cylindric, = or > calyx; lobes white, elliptic, narrowly elliptic, or ovate, obtuse, patent or recurved, > corolla tube. Stamen filaments 1.7-5.2 mm; anthers magenta, 1.7-1.8 mm. Ovary narrowly ovoid, sometimes sparsely hairy toward apex, c.1.2-1.3 mm; styles 5.0-5.7 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 3.0-4.5 × 2.6-3.0 mm, glabrous or minutely hairy, loculicidal split extending 1/4-3/4 way to base.

Flowering:

November - April

Fruiting:

January - April

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted endemic which is sparse to locally abundant within its ultramafic habitat. There are no known threats to the species although wilding pines pose a long term risk to the Red Hills vegetation as a whole.

***Attribution:**

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (4 August 2006). Description modified from Bayly 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

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