



Veronica dieffenbachii

Common Name(s):

Dieffenbach's koromiko

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Chatham Islands (Chatham, Pitt, Mangere, South East Islands).

Habitat:

Mostly coastal where it usually grows in mixed shrubland and along forest margins. Also on limestone outcrops on the coast or inland, and it is a feature of the limestone cliffs lining Te Whanga lagoon. Rarely in coastal forest, where it often grows near petrel burrows

Features*:

Upright bushy or spreading shrub up to 2 × 3 m. Branches suberect to erect, rarely spreading and ± pendent, old stems grey or brown; branchlets green (rarely tinged maroon), puberulent, pubescent or glabrous; internodes 2.9-34.0 mm. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erecto-patent to recurved; lamina elliptic, oblong-elliptic, oblanceolate to obovate, coriaceous, flat, or with recurved margins, 26.0-110.0 × 4.5-25.0 mm; apex subacute or obtuse, base truncate to subcordate or amplexicaul; margin cartilaginous, glabrous or finely ciliate; upper surface light to dark green, often glaucescent, hairy along midrib, rarely uniformly eglandular pubescent; lower surface light green or glaucescent, glabrous or minutely and uniformly pubescent. Inflorescences with 34-140 flowers, lateral, unbranched, 50-120 mm long; peduncle 9-20 mm; rachis 35-100 mm. Bracts alternate, lanceolate, linear-lanceolate or deltoid, acute to subacute, occasionally hairy outside. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels 0.7-3.8 mm. Calyx 1.5-4.4 mm, 4-5-lobed, lobes lanceolate, ovate or deltoid, acute to subacute, occasionally hairy outside. Corolla tube hairy inside, 2.5-3.5 × 1.5-1.8 mm, shortly cylindrical, > calyx; lobes white, elliptic or ovate, obtuse, patent to recurved, slightly shorter than corolla tube, hairy inside, or with sparse hairs toward the base on the inner surface. Stamen filaments white, 3.5-4.0 mm; anthers magenta, 1.5-1.9 mm. Nectarial disc ciliate, rarely glabrous. Ovary glabrous, sometimes hairy, 0.9-1.1 mm; style 4.0-7.3 mm, glabrous, sometimes hairy. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 3.5-5.6 × 2.7-4.3 mm, glabrous or sometimes hairy, loculicidal split ¼ way to base. Seeds flattened, ± discoid, ± smooth, brown to pale brown, 0.8-1.5 × 0.8-1.2 mm.

Flowering:

December – May

Fruiting:

January - December

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted island endemic. This species probably has declined and it is certainly less common than *H. chathamica*, however, it is still very widespread, and actively regenerating in fenced off areas. Hybridism with *Veronica chathamica* is an issue at some sites (e.g., Rangatira (South East Island)).

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by Peter J.de Lange (18 August 2006): Description modified from Bayly & 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

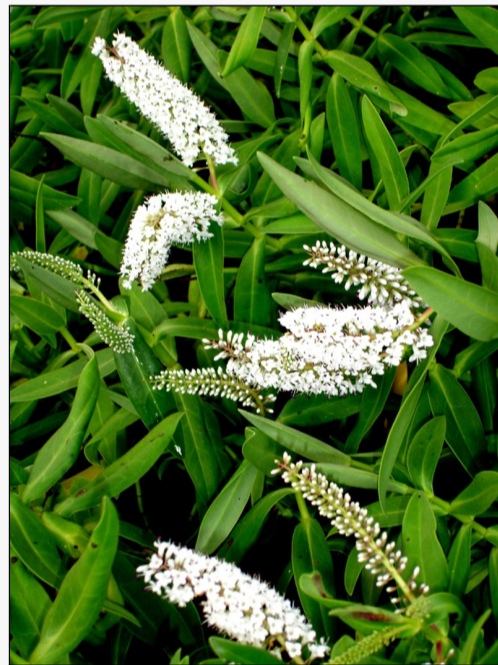
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=525



Caption: *Hebe dieffenbachii*

Photographer: Peter de Lange



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