



Veronica gibbsii

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

South Island - Mountains of eastern Nelson and western Marlborough, where it is known with certainty only from Mt Starveall, Ben Nevis, Mt Rintoul and near Mt Patriarch.

Habitat:

Open, rocky areas.

Features*:

Sparsely branched, spreading low shrub to 0.35 m tall. Branches decumbent; branchlets green to orange-brown, pubescent (with long, multi-celled hairs), hairs bifarious or uniform; internodes (1-) 2-6 (-8) mm; leaf decurrencies evident and extended for length of internode (stem rounded and smooth). Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves erect to patent (sometimes recurved with age); lamina ovate or elliptic (sometimes broadly), coriaceous or fleshy, ± concave, 9- 20 x 4-13 mm; apex subacute (mostly) or obtuse or acute; base broadly cuneate or slightly amplexicaul; venation evident on underside of fresh leaves, usually not evident above, sometimes including 2 secondary laterals arising from base; midrib often slightly thickened below or not thickened; margin long ciliate, sometimes tinged red; upper surface glaucous, with many stomata, glabrous or hairy along midrib; lower surface glaucous.

Inflorescences with (6-) 11-25 (-30) flowers, lateral, unbranched, 1.5-3.5 cm, longer than or about equal to subtending leaves; peduncle 0.5-2.1 cm; rachis 0.8-2.2 cm. Bracts lowermost pair opposite, then subopposite or alternate above, narrowly deltoid, acute (usually) or subacute, sometimes hairy outside. Flowers, probably hermaphrodite. Pedicels absent or when present always shorter than bracts, 0-1 mm. Calyx approximately 2.5-3.5 mm, with anterior lobes free for most of their length or united to 1/3-2/3-way to apex; lobes mostly narrowly deltoid, acute or subacute, often hairy outside. Corolla tube glabrous, 2.5-4 x 1.5-2 mm, cylindrical, longer than or sometimes equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, elliptic or ovate, obtuse or subacute, suberect to patent, longer than or equalling corolla tube. Stamen filaments 6-6.5 mm; anthers magenta or dark purple or cream, 2-2.6 mm. Ovary sometimes hairy, approximately 1-1.3 mm; ovules 13-19 per locule, in 1-2 layers; style 6.5- 9.5 mm, sometimes hairy. Capsules acute or subacute, 2.5-4 x 1.6-2 mm, sometimes hairy, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2-way to base. Seeds flattened, ovoid-ellipsoid to discoid, ± smooth, brown (sometimes pale), 0.8-1.7 x 0.6-0.9 mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.5 mm.

Flowering:

(October) December - February (March)

Fruiting:

January – May (November)

*Attribution:

Description adapted by M. Ward from Bayly & Kellow (2006).

References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 134

Martin, W. 1932. The Vegetation of Marlborough. Blenheim: (n.p.). Reprinted from the *Marlborough Express*.

Salmon, J.T. 1992. A Field Guide to the Alpine Plants of New Zealand. 3rd edition. Auckland: Godwit Publishing.

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



Caption: Mt Patriarch

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: At Mt Patriarch

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=527