



Veronica pareora

Common Name(s):

Pareora Gorge Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (south Canterbury – Hunter Hills (Rock Gully, upper Pareora Gorge, White Rock River and Nimrod Stream), possibly also Blue Duck Stream and Opihi River)

Habitat:

Lower montane to montane. A riparian species of gorges where it grows on rock outcrops, on cliff faces, within ledges and crevices above fast flowing streams and rivers

Features*:

Large shrubs, branching from the base. Stems hanging or trailing, ascending at tips, naked except near apex, sparingly branched, glabrous, 1-3 m long, and up to 0.5 m tall. Leaf bud without sinus. Leaves oblong, ovate, obovate or elliptic, very fleshy-coriaceous, concave, spreading, glaucous, glabrous, amplexicaul to subauriculate, 15-30 × 10-18 mm; apex broadly obtuse; margins never red. Inflorescence a 12-60-flowered raceme; peduncle glabrous, 20-30 mm. Flowers pedicellate, pedicels glandular/eglandular-hairy, 2-5 mm. Bracts narrow-lanceolate, 2-4 mm, glabrous or minutely ciliolate. Calyx glabrous or minutely ciliolate, lobes lanceolate or narrowly oblong, acute or subacute, 2 mm. Corolla white, tube exceeding calyx, lobes narrow. Anthers purple. Capsule broadly angustiseptate, latiseptate or turgid, ellipsoid, emarginate or strongly didymous, glabrous, dark brown, about 3.5-5.0 × 2.5-3.5 mm, 1.5-2.8 mm thick, loculicidal split extending 1/2-way to base

Flowering:

November - January

Fruiting:

December - October

Threats:

Not Threatened. A Naturally Uncommon, range restricted and sparsely distributed plant which is widespread but never particularly common within its few known habitats. Some populations may be threatened by browsing animals.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (1 August 2006). Description from Garnock-Jones and Molloy (1982)

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Molloy, B.P.J. 1982: Polymorphism and the taxonomic status of the *Hebe amplexicaulis* complex (Scrophulariaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 20: 391-399.

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=533



Caption: Pareora Gorge.

Photographer: John Braggins



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