



Veronica notialis

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

South Island - Mountains of Fiordland, from Caswell Sound in the northwest to near Lake Hauroko in the southeast.

Habitat:

Alpine grassland or low shrubland.

Features*:

Spreading low shrub to 0.2 m tall. Branches decumbent to erect, old stems brown to grey; branchlets green or red-brown or brown, pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1-2 (-3) mm; leaf decurrencies evident and extended for length of internode; leaves either abscising above nodes or not readily abscising. Leaf bud tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves; sinus broad and acute. Leaves very shortly connate, erecto-patent; lamina ovate to circular or deltoid (leaves spatulate when shape of petiole is considered), rigid, flat to concave, (2-) 3-5 (-6) x (2-) 3-4 (-6) mm; apex subacute to obtuse or subapiculate; midrib slightly thickened below (forming keel), but not strongly evident in fresh leaves; margin minutely papillate and ciliate (often with tangled, branching hairs); upper surface dark green to yellowish-green, glossy, with many stomata, glabrous; lower surface dark green to yellowish-green, glossy; petiole 1-1.5 (-2) mm. Juvenile and reversion leaves entire, ciliate. Inflorescences with 2 (-4) flowers, lateral, unbranched, 0.6-1.35 cm, longer than subtending leaves (if including the length of flowers); peduncle 0-0.2 cm; rachis 0-0.2 cm. Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, lanceolate to deltoid, subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels always shorter than bracts, approximately 1 mm, glabrous or hairy. Calyx 4-6 mm; lobes oblanceolate, acute, minutely eglandular ciliate (with branching hairs). Corolla tube glabrous, approximately 3 x 1 mm, slightly contracted at mouth, equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, circular or elliptic (anterior only), obtuse, suberect to recurved, equalling corolla tube. Stamen filaments remaining erect, 2 mm; anthers pink to magenta or mauve. 1.5-2 mm. Ovary globose to ellipsoid, approximately 1 mm; ovules 12-14 per locule; style 1.8-3 mm. Capsules angustiseptate, didymous, 4.5-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, approximately 4 mm thick, septicial split extending $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base, loculicidal split extending to base. Seeds weakly flattened, ellipsoid, pale brown, 1-1.5 x 0.8-1.2 mm.

Flowering:

December-March

Fruiting:

January-March

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

Allan, H. H. 1961. *Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1.* Wellington: Government Printer.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 288.

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=534