



Veronica rigidula var. *rigidula*

Common Name(s):

Hebe

Current Threat Status (2012):

At Risk - Naturally Uncommon

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: South Island (mostly Richmond and Bryant Ranges)

Habitat:

Lowland to montane within sparsely vegetated sites on rock outcrops, crevices, ledges, rubble slopes, boulder falls, or within ravines and river gorges

Features*:

Low growing, openly branched, bushy shrub 0.3-0.6 m tall. Branches erect or ascending, old stems brown; branchlets green, pubescent, hairs bifarious; internodes 1.0-5.5 mm. Leaf bud distinct, terete to weakly tetragonous in cross-section; sinus narrow and acute. Leaves erect to patent; lamina usually narrowly elliptic, elliptic oblanceolate, thin to coriaceous, upper surface concave, 7.7-31.4 × 2.1-7.4 mm, ratio of leaf length to width (2.7-4.8); apex acute or subacute; margin minutely papillate; upper surface green, dull or slightly glossy, glabrous or minutely hairy along midrib (especially toward base); lower surface glaucous or glaucescent; petiole 2.0-3.2 mm long, glabrous or minutely hairy along margins (especially on youngest leaves) and /or rarely hairy above. Inflorescences with 10-40 flowers, lateral, usually tripartite or rarely with more than 3 branches or unbranched, 14-32 mm long, > or < subtending leaves; peduncle 3-12 mm; rachis 7-28 mm. Bracts opposite and decussate, or opposite and decussate below and becoming alternate above, ovate or deltoid, obtuse or subacute. Flowers hermaphrodite. Pedicels absent or up to 0.8 mm long. Calyx 1.5-2.5 mm; lobes elliptic, oblong or ovate, obtuse or subacute, with mixed glandular/eglandular cilia or wholly eglandular. Corolla tube glabrous 2.5-4.0 × 1.7 mm, cylindrical, > calyx; lobes white or pale mauve at anthesis, elliptic, ovate or oblong, obtuse rarely emarginate, suberect to recurved, < corolla tube. Stamen filaments 3-4 mm long; anthers buff or faintly tinged pink, 1.7-2.0 mm. Ovary 0.9-1.0 mm; style 5-7 mm. Capsules obtuse or subacute, 2.4-4.0 × 1.8-2.5 mm, loculicidal split extending 1/4-1/2 way to base. Seeds flattened, ellipsoid, discoid or irregular, brown to pale brown, 0.8-1.6 × 0.7-1.1 mm.

Flowering:

November – February

Fruiting:

December – October

Threats:

A Naturally Uncommon, range-restricted though sparsely distributed species. Though as a rule never that common at any particular site, most populations occur on protected land and there are no known threats.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by Peter J. de Lange (1 August 2006). Description modified from Bayley 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

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=538



Caption: In cult. ex Pelorus Bridge, Nelson.

Photographer: Colin Ogle