



## *Veronica salicornioides*

### Common Name(s):

whipcord hebe

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

### Distribution:

Endemic. South Island only. In the east from southern Marlborough (upper Wairau and Clarences rivers including tributaries) to North Canterbury (Lake Tennyson).

### Habitat:

A montane to subalpine species occupying an altitudinal range of 750-1500m. It is invariably found in mountain valleys, along lake, tarn, river or stream side catchments, usually within red tussock (*Chionochloa rubra*) dominated wetlands, flushes and seepages

### Features\*:

Erect shrub up to 1 x 1m. Trunk short, stout, covered in grey bark. Branches few, erect, rather flexible. Branchlets terete, 20-80 mm long, 2-2.5(-3) mm diameter, yellow-green, not glossy, softly fleshy, and pliant, very brittle when dead; internodes 3-4 mm long, exposed for most of length; nodal joint obscure. Leaves widely spaced (distant), reduced to scales, < 1mm long, somewhat membranous when fresh, dull green to yellowish green, apex obtuse to rounded, or subacute, occasionally convex and incurved, margin with pale membranous rim pressed very close to the stem, fused for at least 1/2 of length to form a sheathing collar. Inflorescence a 10-12-flowered spike. Bracts 1.5 mm long, obtuse to truncate. Calyx 2-3 mm, lobes obtuse, usually fused for 2/3 of length, or completely to apex. Corolla tube 2-3 mm, included within calyx, white, truncate. Corolla lobes spreading, 3-5 mm, white or pale lilac, broadly ovate, apex obtuse to subacute. Capsule 4.5-5 x 2-2.5mm, pale brown to brown, rhomboid, rhomboid-ovate, apex subacute or acute.

### Flowering:

November - February

### Fruiting:

December - May

### Threats:

Formerly threatened by fire. This species now has a widely fragmented distribution. Many populations comprise mature adults with no recruitment evident. Weeds such as *Hieracium*, *Carex scoparia*, and *Agrostis* spp. may be suppressing regeneration at some sites. Plants are browsed by cattle, horses, sheep and goats, and at many sites it is only secure because of the general inaccessibility of the habitat

### \*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 October 2006. Description based on Bayly & Kellow (2006).

### References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J.; Kellow, A.V. *Hebes*, identification, classification and biology. Wellington, Te Papa Press

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=65](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=65)



Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Jacks Pass, Hanmer  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth