



Veronica jovellanoides

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Critical

Distribution:

Endemic. North I. West Auckland, Riverhead Forest.

Habitat:

Known only from a small (20ha) mixed Podocarp/hardwood forest where it grows on shaded, seasonally damp ground amongst sparse ferns, liverworts and mosses alongside a small stream.

Features*:

Creeping hairy herb, spreading over 2–3m and rooting freely at nodes; stems up to 2m long but only up to 50mm tall. Old stems and branchlets brown to red-brown, prostrate or decumbent; vegetative internodes 5–30mm long; stem pubescence uniform, eglandular. Leaves decussate but flattened into one plane on prostrate stems; lamina 3.5–11 × 4.5–12mm, orbicular or deltoid or spatulate, thin; upper surface green, dull; lower surface pale green to pinkish, dull; leaf hairs eglandular, antrorse, sparse to scattered along margins and on one or both surfaces especially near veins; apex obtuse to rounded; base truncate to subcordate; midrib weakly evident above and beneath; margins green or reddish, crenate to serrate; teeth in 3–5 pairs each side; petiole narrowly winged, 2–10mm, densely hairy below. Inflorescence racemose, unbranched, 1–7-flowered, 40–80mm long at fruiting; hairs of peduncle, rachis and pedicels uniformly distributed, moderately dense, white; peduncle 15–25mm long; rachis 20–30mm long; bracts alternate, entire, linear to oblanceolate, subacute to acute, hairy below and on margins, glabrous above; pedicels patent or ascending, straight, 7–12mm long. Calyx 4-lobed, 3.5–6.0mm long; lobes equal, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, subacute to acute, margins and lower surface hairy, margins membranous, entire. Corolla 10–12mm diameter, white, with a magenta colour ring outside the throat and very short magenta nectar guides on all lobes; throat yellowish-green, glabrous; tube c.1.0 × 0.8–1.2mm, glabrous; lobes glabrous; posterior lobe rounded, broader than long, obtuse, spreading, 5.0–5.5 × 6.5–7.0mm; lateral lobes circular, obtuse, spreading, flat, not enfolding stamens, 4.5–5.0 × 5.0–5.5mm; anterior lobe elliptic, obtuse, spreading, 4.5–5.0 × 3.5–4.0mm. Stamen filaments white, slightly narrowed at base and apex, erect and slightly curved inwards towards the style, 4.0–4.5mm long; anthers pink, 0.8–1.0 mm long. Ovary globose to didymous, obtuse, glabrous, 0.6–0.8mm long; style glabrous, white, tapering towards base, 3.5–4.0mm long; stigma capitate, 0.6–0.8mm wide. Capsules splitting when dry but opening further on wetting, narrowly angustiseptate, didymous, green to pale brown, 3.2–6.0 × 3.5–5.5mm, 2–3mm thick, glabrous; style persistent at fruiting; septicidal split extending 3/4-way to base; loculicidal split extending 1/2–3/4-way to base. Seeds strongly flattened, smooth-surfaced, ellipsoid, pale brown, 1.2–1.8 × 1.0–1.4mm.

Flowering:

October–December.

Fruiting:

December–February.

Threats:

Veronica jovellanoides was discovered in a small Queen Elizabeth II Reserve in November 2007. It is currently known from just three plants occupying an area of 6m². Although the species does not seem to be actively threatened the only known population is vulnerable to invasive weeds such as *Tradescantia fluminensis*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Selaginella kraussiana* and *Crococsmia ×crococsmiiflora* which are common within the reserve, and also to trampling by people and feral animals.

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet prepared by P.J. de Lange (12 November 2009): Description based on Davidson et al. (2009).

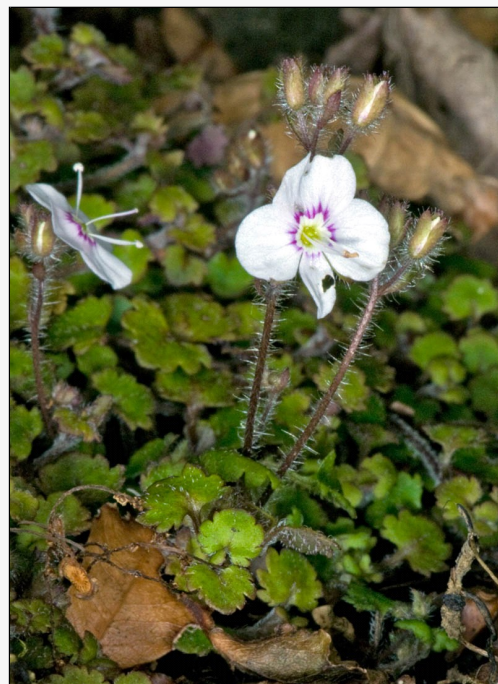
References and further reading:

Davidson G.R.; de Lange, P.J.; Garnock-Jones, P. J. 2009: Two additional indigenous species of *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae) from northern New Zealand: *V. jovellanoides*, a new and highly endangered species, and *V. plebeia* R.Br *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 271–279.

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: *Threatened Plants of New Zealand*. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.

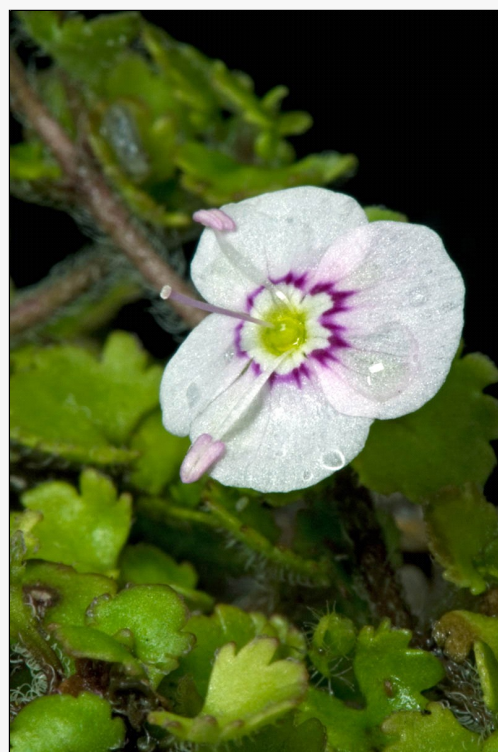
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=6642



Caption: In cultivation ex Woodhill Forest.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



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