



Veronica maccaskillii

Common Name(s):

None known

Current Threat Status (2012):

Threatened - Nationally Endangered

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, South Island. Known only from North Canterbury in the vicinity of Waipara and Mt Cass.

Habitat:

A limestone endemic. Favouring cracked and jointed limestone outcrops, where it is usually found in semi-shaded situations.

Features*:

Spreading, semi-divaricating shrub 50-300 mm tall. Branches prostrate to decumbent. Leaves erecto-patent to spreading, oblanceolate to obovate spatulate, 4-9(-15) x 2-5(-7) mm, apex obtuse to rounded, margin entire to crenate, with 0-2(-3) pairs of crenations. Upper leaf surface green to bronze-green, dull. Petiole 1-2(-3) mm long. Inflorescence 10-60-flowered. Calyx lobes 5. Corolla white or mauve at anthesis, in which case fading thereafter. Stamen filaments inserted at middle of corolla tube, 3-3.5 mm long. Nectarial disc glabrous to glandular-ciliate. Ovary glabrous or sparsely hairy. Style (4-)6-7 mm long, glabrous, sometimes sparsely hairy at the base. Stigma capitate. Capsule turgid, emarginate, sometimes appearing almost didymous. Seeds 1.2-1.6 x 0.6-0.7 mm.

Flowering:

October to November

Fruiting:

December to January

Threats:

Seriously threatened through habitat loss. This plant is a very narrow-range endemic, whose limestone bluff habitat is now largely surrounded by pasture. Many of the known locations are now either too dry, or suboptimal due to weed invasion from adjacent pasture. Recruitment failure is a problem at many sites.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (9 August 2009). Description based on Garnock-Jones (1994).

References and further reading:

Garnock-Jones, P.J. 1993: *Heliohebe* (Scrophulariaceae Veroniceae), a new genus segregated from *Hebe*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 31: 323-33.

Garnock-Jones, P.J.; Albach, D.; Briggs, B.G. 2007: Botanical names in Southern Hemisphere *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae): sect. *Detzneria*, ect. *Hebe*, and sect. *Labiatooides*. *Taxon* 56: 571-582

Heenan, P.B. 2012: Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: new names in *Veronica* (Plantaginaceae). *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 50: 87-88.

Norton, D.A.; Molloy, B.P.J. 2009: *Heliohebe maccaskillii* (Plantaginaceae) - a new rank for a threatened limestone endemic, North Canterbury, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 405-409.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=68



Caption: Habitat at Weka Pass

Photographer: Carol Jensen



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