



Veronica hookeri

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Mountains of South Island, chiefly on or west of the Main Divide, from near Boulder Lake, northwest Nelson, to the Ben Ohau Range, Canterbury, and possibly to Mt Alta, Otago.

Habitat:

Grows on alpine rock outcrops, and boulder fields, often in exposed situations.

Features*:

Subshrub to 0.3 m tall, of semiwhipcord form. Branches decumbent; internodes 0.4-2 (-2.5) mm; branchlets, including leaves, 3-8.5 mm wide, cruciform in transverse section; connate leaf bases glabrous: leaves not readily abscising, persistent along the stem for some distance. Leaf bud tightly surrounded by recently diverged leaves. Leaves connate, appressed to erecto-patent; lamina narrow-oblong (above a broad base); venation not evident in fresh leaves; margin ciliate; lower surface dark green, glossy. Inflorescences with 2-6 flowers, lateral (obscuring vegetative tip when numerous), unbranched, 0.4-1 cm; peduncle 0.05-0.4 cm, hairy or glabrous; rachis glabrous or hairy. Bracts opposite and decussate, connate, deltoid or narrowly oblong, obtuse. Flowers male or female (on different plants). Pedicels absent or if evident then always shorter than bracts, 0-1 mm, glabrous or hairy. Calyx 2.3-3.5 mm; lobes deltoid or oblong (often narrowly so), obtuse, with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia, rarely hairy outside (especially toward base). Corolla tube glabrous; tube of male flowers 1.6-2.3 x 1.3-2 mm, cylindrical (or sometimes slightly expanded around middle), shorter than or equalling calyx; tube of female flowers 1.2-1.6 x 1.4-1.6 mm, funnelliform and contracted at base (may also be expanded near middle), shorter than or equalling calyx; lobes white at anthesis, usually broadly ovate or rhomboid or obovate, obtuse, suberect to recurved, longer than corolla tube (often more markedly so in female flowers). Stamen filaments remaining erect, 0.4-2.5 mm (female 0.4-1 mm; male 2-2.5 mm); anthers purple or magenta, 1.3-1.7 mm; sterile anthers of female flowers purple or magenta, 0.3-0.8 mm. Ovary ovoid or ellipsoid, 0.9-1.3 mm; ovules 5-10 per locule, in 2 vertical rows on placenta or scattered on a hemispherical placenta; style 1.5-2.7 mm (usually shorter in female flowers than male flowers); stigma larger in female flowers, with long, multicellular papillae (papillae on stigmas of male flowers are not prominent). Capsules angustiseptate, obtuse, 3-4.3 mm long, 1.6-3.3 mm thick, septicidal split extending 1/2 to all way to base (usually to base), loculicidal split extending 1/3-3/4 way to base. Seeds 0.3-1 (-1.3) mm.

Flowering:

(October-) November-February (-July)

Fruiting:

January-Mar (-August)

***Attribution:**

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

References and further reading:

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006. An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, N.Z.: Te Papa press pg. 292.

Buchanan, J. 1882. On the alpine Flora of New Zealand. Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute 14: 342-56.

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

Wilson, H. D. 1996. Wild Plants of Mount Cook National Park. 2nd edn. Christchurch: Manuka Press.



Caption: Mt Peel, Nelson, December
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=903