**Veronica jovellanoides**

**Current Threat Status (2012):**

Threatened - Nationally Critical

**Distribution:**

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.

**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, orbiculate or deltoid or spatulate, thin; upper surface green, dull; lower surface pale green to pinkish, dull; leaf hairs eglandular, astrose, sparse to scattered along margins and on one or both surfaces especially near veins; apex obtuse to rounded; base truncate to subcorporate; midrib weakly evident above and beneath; margins green or reddish, crenate to serrate; teeth in 3–5 pairs each side; petiole narrowly winged, 2–14mm, 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 ovate-oblong, 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, 3.5–4.5mm, 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, 0.8–1.0mm 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, 2.3–3.9mm thick, glabrous; style persistent at fruiting; septicidal split extending ¾–way to base; loculicidal split extending ½–¾–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 Crocosmia × crocosmiiflora 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:**


For more information, visit: