

Veronica stenophylla var. hesperia

COMMON NAMES

hebe

BIOSTATUS

Native

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bushy shrub bearing pairs of very narrow leaves that have small pits near margin (lens needed) inhabiting limestone near the Northwest Nelson coast. Leaves to 62 mm long by 8 mm wide. Flowers white, in spikes to 95 mm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Spreading low or bushy shrub (often openly branched) to 2 m tall. Branches erect. old stems grey; branchlets olive-green or red-brown, bifariously to uniformly puberulent; internodes (1-) 4-13 (-24) mm; leaf decurrencies evident (usually, weakly), or obscure. Leaf bud distinct; sinus absent. Leaves oblong-elliptic, linear-lanceolate or lanceolate, (16-) 25- 45 (-62) x (3.5-) 4-8 mm; upper surface usually smooth, mostly pitted only toward the margin but sometimes with obvious pits toward middle of lamina, stomata sparse except at apex and sometimes along either side of midrib; margins broad. glabrous (usually) or with very fine hairs toward the apex; lower surface green (often paler than upper), conspicuously pitted with small depressions that each contain a twin-headed glandular hair. Inflorescences with (35-) 55-130 (-170) flowers, lateral, unbranched, 32-64 mm long; peduncle (0.5-) 1-1.5 (-2.1) cm; rachis (2-) 4.5-6 (-9) cm. Bracts alternate, ovate or deltoid, acute (mostly) or obtuse. Flowers, hermaphrodite or female (on different plants). Pedicels longer than or equal to bracts, (0.5-) 1-3 (-5) mm, hairy or glabrous. Calyx 1.5-2.5 mm; lobes ovate or oblong, obtuse to acute, eglandular ciliate (usually) or with mixed glandular and eglandular cilia (glandular hairs often with a single, rounded cell at the apex; twin-headed hairs, when present, usually sparse). Corolla tube hairy within, 1.8-3 (-3.5) mm long, tube of hermaphrodite flowers (1.8) 3-4.9 x 1.3-2 mm, contracted at base and cylindric or expanded in lower half, longer than calyx; lobe white or tinged mauve at anthesis, ovate (often broadly) or circular or elliptic, obtuse (posterior sometimes emarginate), suberect to recurved (mostly patent), shorter than corolla tube. Stamen filaments incurved at apex in bud, 2.5-4.4 mm; anthers magenta, 1-1.5 mm. Ovary approximately 0.8-0.9 mm; ovules 4-10 per locule; style 3-7 mm. Capsules acute or obtuse. (2-) 2.5-3.5 x (0.8-) 1.5-3 mm, loculicidal split extending $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ -way to base. Seeds flattened, more or less ellipsoid to oblong, straw-yellow to pale brown, 0.9-1 .5 (-2) x 0.7-0.9 (-1.1) mm, micropylar rim 0.2-0.3 mm.



Puponga, north west Nelson coast.

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Puponga, north west Nelson coast.

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SIMILAR TAXA

Key distinguishing features include: the presence of small pits, at least on the lower leaf surface (usually conspicuous under a dissecting microscope, each containing a recessed glandular hair); leaf margins that are usually smooth and glabrous (only occasionally hairy); corolla tubes that are longer than calyces and usually glabrous within; and calyx cilia only rarely including twin-headed glandular hairs.

Similar to:

- *V. traversii*, is distinguished by the combination of non-pitted leaves, minutely hairy leaf margins, and hairs inside the corolla tubes.
- *V. parviflora* (in which it was included, as var. *angustifolia*, by Moore, in Allan 1961), is distinguished by having often smooth (only sometimes pitted) leaf surfaces, minutely hairy leaf margins, corolla tubes that are hairy within and calyx cilia always including twin headed glandular hairs.
- *V. strictissima* distinguished by having corolla tubes equal to or slightly exceeding surrounding calyces.
- *V. stenophylla* var. *oliveri* and *V. stenophylla* var. *stenophylla* can be distinguished by having corolla tubes usually less than 3 mm long, glabrous or (very rarely) hairy within; branchlets glabrous or bifariously to (rarely) uniformly puberulent; upper surface of leaves with few to many stomata.

DISTRIBUTION

South Island - occurs in near-coastal areas in northwest South Island, between Cape Farewell and the Heaphy River.

HABITAT

Limestone bluffs.

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT, RR

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

AUTHORITY

Veronica stenophylla var. *hesperia* (Bayly & Garn.-Jones) Garn.-Jones

SYNONYMS

Hebe stenophylla var. *hesperia* Bayly et Garn.-Jones

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Collections of *V. stenophylla* var. *hesperia* vary in leaf size, with small- and larger-leaved plants apparently occurring in close proximity.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

December-April (-September)

FRUITING

January-July (-December)

OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

veronica: Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin vera 'truth' and iconica 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

stenophylla: From the Greek steno 'narrow' and phyllum 'leaf', referring to the narrow leaves

hesperia: From the Greek hesperos 'evening' (i.e. western), referring to its westerly distribution

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. 1. Wellington: Government Printer.

Bayly, M.J., Kellow, A.V. 2006: An illustrated guide to New Zealand Hebes. Wellington, Te Papa Press, pp 170-172.

ATTRIBUTION

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

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ward, M.D. (Year at time of access): *Veronica stenophylla* var. *hesperia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stenophylla-var-hesperia/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-stenophylla-var-hesperia/>

PDF DATE

24 October 2024