

DISTRIBUTION MAPS OF HEBE IN CANTERBURY.

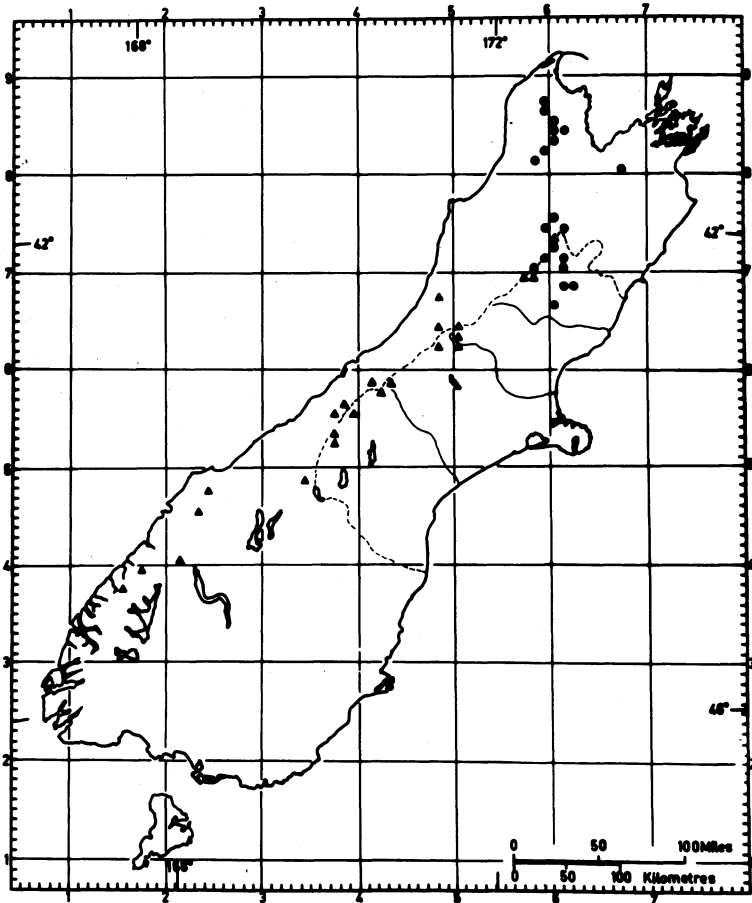
A.D. MACDONALD

Readers are referred to Journal 14 for the introduction and acknowledgements to this series, and to Journals 14 and 15 for earlier maps. I would still like to receive specimens or cuttings from Canterbury localities.

Hebe pauciramosa is a sparsely branched plant up to half a metre tall, with almost square, dark green, shiny, close-set leaves. It is found in wet and seeping parts of high grass and tussock mountain slopes, even sometimes into stream beds themselves, usually where the shingle is over-grown with grasses and herbs.

Var masonae is a N.W. Nelson variety ranging from the Owen Range, near Owen River north of Murchison, up to the Mt. Cobb area. Var pauciramosa is found in scattered localities from the Matiri Range north of Murchison, down the length of the island to Longwood Range near Riverton. Because this Hebe is so scattered, specimens from any location would be much appreciated; especially from the Spenser Mountains and Lewis Pass area, the Amuri Pass to east of the Hawdon River, and west of Mt. Somers to the Godley River area at the head of Lake Tekapo.

This species has almost square leaves so that the leaf base is at right angles to the stem. In var. pauciramosa the flowers are lateral only and the leaf keel is flattened near the tip as if someone has run a hot iron over it. In var masonae the flowers are large and terminal only and the leaf tip is not flattened as above. These plants are sometimes confused with Hebe odora but that species has a combination of lateral and terminal flowers forming a cone shaped flower head at the tip of the stem. The keel of the leaf is not flattened and the leaf is usually longer than it is wide and not at all square, or if so then the leaf tapers to the stem and does not meet it at right angles.

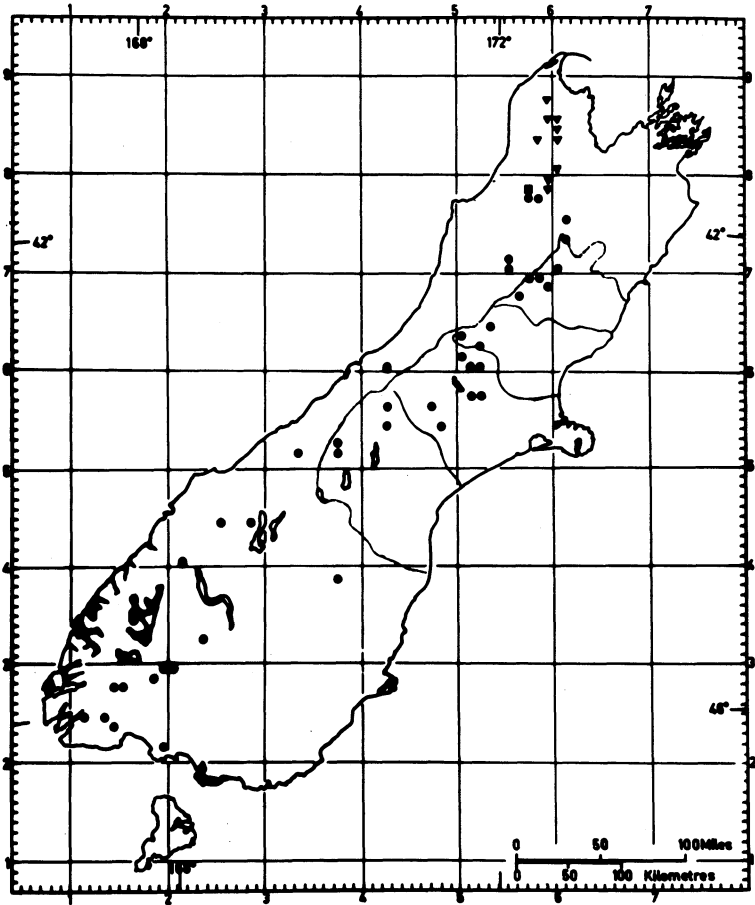


Hebe pauciramosa

Hebe macrantha is a distinctive, sparsely branched shrub with rounded teeth on the leaf margins and large flowers up to 20 mm across. It is distributed from north west Nelson to Fiordland. Var. macrantha specimens are grouped at its northern limit the Spenser Moundains, around Arthurs Pass, the Mt Cook district, and Fiordland. Var brachyphylla specimens come from the Lewis Pass - Spenser Mountains area, and the Wāngapeka - Cobb Valley area, with one specimen from Mt Richmond east of Nelson. Var macrantha gaps are between Lewis and Arthurs Passes and from south of Arthurs Pass to the Havelock River. Var brachyphylla gaps are Lake Constance, Lake Guyon, most of the country east of the Wāiaiu River from the Lewis highway to its headwaters.

Collections of these species from any area would be much appreciated because the gaps are large and it may be that the plants just do not grow in those areas.

Var macrantha has long-elliptic leaves with pale edges and it lives in drier parts of mountains, and growing usually amongst tussock or low scrub, tends to be tall and straggly. Var. brachyphylla has broader leaves, almost spoon-shaped without being dished and also usually with red edges. It tends to live in wetter parts of its habitats, but still amongst tussock and low scrub. It is found on the high slopes and tops of mountains, where ever there is an abundance of grass, tussock and scrub either in wet seepages or dry areas where the main stem and some of the branches are sprawling flat on the ground or at least hidden amongst the scrub or grass, especially so in var brachyphylla. A few branches, mostly single, c 30 cm long project above the cover.



Hebe macrantha