

## A SUN HEBE

Roger Keey

The picture illustrates a sun hebe, *Heliohebe raoulii*, one of a number of plants found growing in November 2010 on limestone debris at Jacks Pass, North Canterbury at an altitude of about 850 m above sea level (Fig. 1). It is a small, fairly erect shrub. The red-margined, spatulate leaves are slightly serrate. The inflorescence is terminal, with flowers that range in colour from pinkish lavender to almost white.

A smaller and closely similar plant is found in the Weka Pass region and on the Mount Cass ridge. All parts of this smaller plant seem to be about half the size of the larger sun hebe, but it is more prostrate and generally has one more calyx lobe. Recently the smaller plant has been raised to species rank because of its distinguishable morphology and occurrence only on a few limestone sites (Norton & Molloy 2009). Another close relative of *Heliohebe raoulii* is the Banks Peninsula endemic *H. lavaudiana*, which has more oval-shaped leaves and whiter flowers.



**Figure 1** *Heliohebe raoulii*.  
Original painting by the author.

### Reference

Norton DA, Molloy BPJ 2009. *Heliohebe maccaskillii* (Plantaginaceae)–a new rank for a threatened limestone endemic, North Canterbury, New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Botany* 47: 405–409.