

abundant. It is a small rather flattened shrub but one bonsai-looking plant had a gnarled and twisted 'trunk' 20 cm high.

☞ **Western Shore – Lake Tekapo, 1 Jan - Gael Donaghy**

This unpromising-looking area of soft sediment lakeshore, that is sometimes covered with water, proved to have some interesting plants. There are mats of the little *Leptinella maniototo*, a tiny *Crassula*, *C. sinclairii* that was in flower, the "tape measure plant" *Lilaeopsis ruthiana* and carpets of *Neopaxia lineariifolia*, with its pretty white flowers, with a pink stamen lying along each petal. A search was mounted for *Glossostigma elatinooides* flowers to show people how to trigger the irritable stigma, but there were very few out. A small plant with a disproportionately large blue flower turned out to be *Parahebe canescens*.

Rain interrupted our botanising, but after a compulsory lunch break in the vehicles, a quick sortie to a wind-scoured area about 100 m from the lake was proposed. Here there were several treasures including the unusual, dark green *Raoulia monroii*, with its fan-shaped arrangement of leaves. Another treasure was the *Convolvulus verecundus* subsp *verecundus* which has rosettes of grey/brown rabbit-dropping-shaped leaves that arise from a deeply buried runner! The plants had flowered earlier, and there were many capsules blowing around in the wind. Two other rewards for the plodding about in the rain were the tight cushions of the very hairy *Pimelea pulvinaris*, and the small broom, *Carmichaelia nana*.

Of interest here too were the bright yellow vagrant lichens, *Chondropsis semiviridis* – when the weather is dry they curl up and blow around. When it rains, they flatten out against the ground and photosynthesize, until it again becomes too dry.

Fine example of *Botsocia camerae* overcrowding *B prostrata*. Chris E, Rodney L and others paying homage to tiny plants on the shore of Lake Tekapo
– Rosemary Collier

