

# Myosotidium hortensia

## COMMON NAMES

kopakopa, Chatham Island forget-me-not, kopukapuka

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: CD, DPT, IE

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Robust, perennial herb, forming patches up to 1 m tall by 1.0–1.5 m diameter. Root stock stout, cylindrical, rather fleshy, where emergent covered in numerous leaf scars, becoming woody with age. Petioles 0.1–0.5 m long, grooved above, channelled below. Lamina of basal leaves up to 0.4 m across, dark green to yellow-green, broadly ovate-cordate to reniform, thick, fleshy to coriaceous; upper surface glossy, glabrous; lower surface paler, minutely and evenly covered in retrorse hairs; margins entire; veins prominent, indented above, elevated below. Inflorescences lateral corymbose cymes, somewhat woody at base, with stem leaves; lower stem leaves similar to basal leaves, upper stem leaves smaller, oblong to broadly lanceolate or elliptic. Cymes 100–200 mm diameter, pedicels 10–15 mm long. Calyx lobes 5, 1.8–4.5 × 2.0–2.5 mm, broadly elliptic, covered in appressed hairs, apex obtuse, margin entire. Corolla 12–15 mm diameter, dark blue to pale blue, often flushing purple with age, occasionally white; lobes 5, 4.0–4.5 × 5.0–6.0 mm, orbicular, rounded, spreading, overlapping, apex obtuse; tube 2 mm long, throat partially occluded by 5 fleshy protuberances. Filaments c. 0.5 mm long, inserted near throat; anther included, 1.0–1.2 mm long. Ovary 4-lobed, style 0.7–1.0 mm long, stigma capitate. Fruit a nutlet, 10–15 mm diameter, brown to black, winged around margin; seed obovate, 7.5–9.0 mm long, testa black-brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

A distinctive and easily recognised species with large, glossy green leaves and large blue-flowered inflorescences.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the Chatham Islands. Found on Chatham (Rekohu), Pitt, South East, Mangere and most of the smaller islands, islets and some rock stacks.

## HABITAT

Coastal cliffs, rock outcrops, sandy and rocky beaches just above the strand zone and coastal forest openings.



Chatham Island. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Chatham Island. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## THREATS

Formerly abundant around the coasts and islets, the range of *Myosotidium hortensia* has been significantly reduced to scattered remnants by farming, competition from marram grass (*Ammophila arenaria*) and the depredations of feral animals, such as cattle, horses, sheep, possums, pigs, rats and weka who trample, uproot and browse plants. Possums, rodents, and weka are serious predators of flowers and fruits. Weed encroachment, especially by marram grass, has eliminated this species from most of its former dune habitat. Removing whole plants for private use in gardens is an ongoing problem for the more accessible populations. Coastal development destroyed the only known white-flowered wild plants, and remains a potential threat elsewhere.

## GENUS

Myosotidium

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotidium hortensia* (Decne.) Baill.

## SYNONYMS

*Myosotis hortensia* Decne, *Cynoglossum nobile* Hook.f., *Myosotidium nobile* (Hook.f.) Hook.f.; *Myosotidium hortensium* (Decne.) Baill. orth.var.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

September - November

## FRUITING

October - May

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy to grow provided the root stock is kept moist. It will not tolerate drought. It also dislikes humidity. Does best in a rich, well fertilised, peaty soil on the south-side of a building, or near a dripping tap. Also does well in partial shade under trees. Avoid competition from other plants. Seed germinates well if fresh but will not store long. A white-flowered form is occasionally grown.

## CULTIVATION

Commonly available from most commercial and specialist native plant nurseries.

## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for December 2005](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotidium**: Myosotis-like

## NVS CODE

MYOHOR

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 40-42

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, IE  
2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, IE  
2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: CD, IE, Inc, RR  
2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered  
[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

de Lange, P.J.; Heenan, P.B.; Norton, D.A.; Rolfe, J.R.; Sawyer, J.W.D. 2010: Threatened Plants of New Zealand. Canterbury University Press, Christchurch.  
Garnock-Jones PJ. 2014: Evidence-based review of the taxonomic status of New Zealand's endemic seed plant genera, New Zealand Journal of Botany, DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2014.902854](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2014.902854)

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on de Lange et al. (2010).

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotidium hortensia* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.  
<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotidium-hortensia/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotidium-hortensia/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026