

Myosotis albosericea

COMMON NAMES

Yellow forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, perennial herb, producing one or more white-hairy rosettes. Leaves numerous, narrow-spathulate, 30 x 30 mm, apex sub acute, all parts covered in silky silvery-white hairs all of one type, uniformly stiff, straight, appressed, imbricating so as to hide leaf surface entirely. Lateral branches few, erect, up to 150 mm. Stem leaves sparse, upper ones sessile, narrow-oblong, 6 x 2 mm, apex sub acute. Inflorescence a simple, terminal cyme. Calyx 3 mm long, lobes > half length, narrow, acute. Corolla yellow, 5 mm diam., tube 4-5 mm, flaring toward top, corolla lobes 2.5 x 1.5 mm, oblong, filaments short, anther-tips below to just above scales; style » calyx in fruit,. Nutlets ovate, pointed and keeled, 1.7-2.1 x 1-1.1 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species whose grey hairy foliage, branches, inflorescence stems and large yellow flowers readily distinguish it from all other New Zealand *Myosotis* species.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Central Otago, southern Dunstan Range.

HABITAT

Alpine. Amongst schist boulders in shade of rock tors.

THREATS

As far as is known this species has always been confined to a small portion of the Dunstan Range above the Kawarau River, near Cromwell. At present just the one population is known (and in fact this may be the same population as that discovered originally by John Buchanan and James Hector). That population has been regularly monitored for the greater part of 30 years, and seems to be stable. Nevertheless because the species is known from just the one site, within an area of < 1 ha it qualifies as Nationally Critical.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis albosericea Hook f.



Cultivated from Dunstan Range. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Myosotis albosericea. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

January - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

CULTIVATION

A few plants are held by specialist growers. Very difficult to maintain in cultivation.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for April 2015](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: NS, NStr, OL, RE, St, TL Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the “[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)” Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on Allan (1961).

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-albosericea/>

PDF DATE

