

# Myosotis brevis

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPS, DPT, EF

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## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent, annual or rarely short-lived perennial herb, forming small circular patches on open ground. Rosette rather compact, densely to sparsely leafy. Petiole narrow or broad, 3-5 mm long. Leaves 8-25 x 4-10 mm, green, dark green, bronze-green to brown-green, obovate to spatulate or clavate, apex obtuse, rounded, base often oblique, otherwise attenuate, upper leaf surface with copious, stiff to coarse, spreading, straight hairs, undersides glabrescent or glabrous. Lateral branches numerous, decumbent, 10-30(-60) mm long, usually hidden within, though sometimes extending beyond rosette leaves. Stem leaves similar to rosette leaves, shortly petiolate. Bracts sessile, 5-7 x 1-4 mm, narrow oblong, obovate to spatulate, base oblique, subopposite to opposite, overlapping. Inflorescences cymose, cymes simple, few- to many-flowered, subtended by leafy bracts throughout, internodes 2-3(-6) mm long. Calyx 2-3 mm long, elongating to 3-5 mm in fruit, lobes deeply cut to half calyx length, subacute to acute, spreading at fruiting, copiously covered in shortly erect, spreading silky hairs. Flowers subsessile to sessile, white, cream, pale yellow, sometimes striped with blue. Corolla 0.5-1 mm diameter, corolla tube narrowly cylindrical, 1-2 mm long, lobes obtuse to subacute; stamens on short filaments, anthers 0.1-0.2 mm, wholly included within corolla tube, anther tips obscured, rarely reaching scales; style 0.1-0.3, stigma capitate. Nutlets 0.9-1.1 x 0.6-0.8 mm, brown-black to grey-black, ovate to ovate-elliptic, distinctly keeled on ventral surface

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Myosotis brevis* is most similar to *M. pygmaea* which is the only one of the *M. pygmaea* complex (comprising *M. brevis*, *M. drucei*, *M. glauca* and *M. pygmaea*) with which *M. brevis* has been found growing sympatrically. From *M. pygmaea*, *M. brevis* is best distinguished by its annual habit, much smaller flowers, 0.5-1 mm in *M. brevis*, 1.5-3 mm in *M. pygmaea*.

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North and South Islands. In the North Island known from East Cape, the South Taranaki Coast, Kapiti Island, along the South Wellington Coast, and at Cape Palliser. In the South Island, locally present in Marlborough, Canterbury, and Central Otago.

## HABITAT

Coastal to alpine, in open and more or less shingly places.



Photographer: Shannel Courtney, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Habitat of *M. brevis* near Cape Egmont.  
Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## THREATS

A plant of free-draining but seasonally moist habitats. It cannot tolerate over-shading, so is very vulnerable to taller weed species invading its habitats. Land development is threatening some populations, and has possibly been responsible for the recent loss of others.

## GENUS

Myosotis

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Myosotis brevis de Lange et Barkla

## SYNONYMS

Myosotis pygmaea var. minutiflora G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

*Myosotis brevis* is a new name and rank for the plant previously treated as *M. pygmaea* var. *minutiflora*. A new name at species rank was required for that variety because of the prior existence of another unrelated overseas species *M. minutiflora*. *Myosotis brevis* was formalised by de Lange and Barkla in de Lange et al. (2010).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

September to April

## FRUITING

October to August

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Usually a strict annual which in good conditions self sows readily. Easily grown from fresh seed but can be difficult to maintain and dislikes humid conditions.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**brevis:** Short

## NVS CODE

MYOBRE

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, Sp

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: EF, RR, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, EF

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable

[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.

### **ATTRIBUTION**

Fact Sheet prepared for the NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (14 April 2006). Description by P.J. de Lange and subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010).

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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

### **MORE INFORMATION**

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

### **PDF DATE**

27 May 2026