

Myosotis ×cinerascens

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Assessed

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, greyish green, hairy, rosette forming herb. Rosette leaves numerous, spatulate, 20-70 x 40-90 mm, petiole broad, ill-defined, hairs numerous, on upper surface smoothly appressed, overlapping of varying lengths, hairs on undersides short, not retrorse. Lateral branches ascending to erect, up to 150 mm long, internodes < leaves. Upper stem leaves 12-20 mm, oblong, narrowing to subacute tip; hairs of upper surface appressed, short, those of undersides similar but shorter, interspersed with longer hooked hairs. Inflorescence a compact, many-flowered cyme, carried 10-20(-30) mm above leaves when fruiting, occasionally with a leafy bract above the lowest division. Flowers probably white or maybe pale lemon.

SIMILAR TAXA

The most recent treatment of New Zealand *Myosotis*, that offered by Meudt (2021) suggests that this plant which has long been known as *M. cinerascens* or *M. traversii* var. *cinerascens* (see de Lange et al. 2010; Meudt 2021) is an uncommon naturally occurring hybrid between *M. colensoi* and *M. traversii* subsp. *cantabrica*. From *M. traversii* subsp. *traversii* this hybrid is distinguished by the presence of many hooked hairs on the undersurface of the upper stem leaves. From *M. traversii* subsp. *cantabrica* it is distinguished by the short, smoothly appressed leaf hairs and elongated fruiting inflorescence.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island, Canterbury, Castle Hill Basin only.

HABITAT

A very uncommon hybrid found on the limestone within the Castle Hill Basin. The most recent records of it have found it on talus slopes associated with the putative parents.

THREATS

This plant is known from only a handful of collections made during the from much the same area from the 1800s to the early 2000s. The most recent observations found very few plants. It is not known if the hybrid is sterile. Unfortunately its limestone habitat is now at risk from severe modification following weed invasion.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis ×cinerascens Petrie

SYNONYMS

Myosotis cinerascens Petrie, *Myosotis traversii* var. *cinerascens* (Petrie) L.B.Moore

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Opinion as to the status of this hybrid has varied from those who felt it was a species to others who considered it an unusual 'sport' or perhaps an uncommon hybrid. Meudt (2021) decided to treat this plant as a hybrid, providing a nothotaxon name for it. NZPCN retains *Myosotis ×cinerascens*, because a few other nothotaxa are also accepted on the website. *Myosotis ×cinerascens* has not received a threat listing by de Lange et al. (2024) because the New Zealand Threat Classification System does not allow for threat listing of hybrids.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

Unknown

FRUITING

February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown. As a relatively low-elevation plant of limestone outcrops it may have been reasonably easy to cultivate from rooted pieces and fresh seed.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

cinerascens: Becoming ash-coloured

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Extinct

2012 | Extinct

2009 | Extinct

2004 | Extinct

[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.

Meudt, H.M. 2021: Taxonomic revision of five species groups of ebracteate-erect *Myosotis* (Boraginaceae) endemic to New Zealand, based on morphology, and description of new subspecies. *Australian Systematic Botany* 34: 252–304.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (1 February 2008). Description 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 ×cinerascens* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-cinerascens/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 June 2026