

Myosotis glabrescens

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DPT, RR

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Compact, cushion-forming herb to 50 cm diam. Branches horizontal, up to 5 cm, numerous, rooting freely at nodes. Stems copiously covered in overlapping erect hairs. Leaves very broadly spatulate, crowded toward ascending branchlet tips, 5 × 2-3 mm, at first copiously covered in short, stiff, appressed hairs, which become wider-spaced as leaf matures. Flowering branches lateral, almost hidden amongst leaves. Flowers almost stalkless (sessile), subtended by a few elliptic to broad elliptic subacute stem-leaves. Calyx 2-4 mm long, with lobes split to half the calyx length, these narrow, acute, with a rather sparse covering of appressed hairs. Corolla white, 5 mm diameter, tube cylindric, 4 mm long, lobes 2 × 1-1.5 mm, oblong. Stamens with short filaments, anthers 1 mm long, mainly held above corolla-scales. Style = anthers, elongating to much > calyx in fruit. Seeds 2 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Closest to two other cushion-forming species with solitary flowers, *M. pulvinaris* and *M. uniflora*. From *M. pulvinaris* *M. glabrescens* differs by the anthers held above the corolla scales and *M. pulvinaris* forms a domed circular cushion. *M. uniflora* has yellow flowers and leaves that are distinctly narrower than wide. Field recognition: only alpine *Myosotis* which forms a streamside ground-contouring mat.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known only from one site and a few gatherings made in the Hector Range, east of Lake Wakatipu. Strangely, this plant may be better known in Scotland where it is grown by alpine enthusiasts (see: <http://www.srgc.org.uk/smf/index.php?topic=3383.30>)

HABITAT

Probably strictly alpine. Plants occur on mid-stream or marginal gravel deposits in the headbasin of alpine streams. May occur in other habitats.

THREATS

Myosotis glabrescens is known only from one recently-discovered locality (with c. 6 plants), the type specimen collected by Donald Petrie in February 1890 and one or two other collections made in the 1980s. It is for this reason that it has been listed as Data Deficient.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis glabrescens L.B.Moore

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Grow in free-draining gravel. Plants irregularly flower at lower elevations.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

glabrescens: Becoming hairless

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Data Deficient

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Critical | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RE, RR, Sp, 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 HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085 p.

ATTRIBUTION

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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

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