

Myosotis glauca

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: Sp, DPT, PF

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Decumbent, biennial or perennial herb, forming small, circular patches on open ground. Rosette rather open, sparsely leafy. Petiole broad 5(-10) mm long. Leaves 10-30 x 5-8 mm, glaucous green or grey, obovate to spatulate, apex obtuse or rounded, rarely subacute, base narrowly cuneate to attenuate; upper surface clad in short, stiff, sparse tightly appressed hairs. Lateral branches few, decumbent, 50-100 mm long, extending well beyond rosette leaves, rather openly branching, internodes 10-15 mm long. Stem leaves similar to rosette-leaves. Bracts up to 8 x 6 mm, rather leafy, obovate. Inflorescences cymose, cymes simple, few- to many-flowered, subtended by leafy bracts throughout, internodes < bracts, often rather short. Pedicels 1.5-2 mm long. Calyx 3-5 mm long, elongating to 4-8 mm long in fruiting material, lobes deeply cut to half calyx length, lobes subacute, hairs few, confined in lines to margins and on vertical lines of calyx, very short, stiff and coarse. Flowers white. Corolla 3 mm diameter, corolla tube cylindric 0.4-0.6 mm, lobes very narrow, apex obtuse; stamens on short filaments, anthers 0.5-0.8 mm, wholly included within corolla tube, anther tips obscured, rarely reaching scales; style 0.1-0.3, stigma capitate. Nutlets 1.2-1.5 x (0.8-)1-1.2 mm, brown-black to grey-black, broadly ovate.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis glauca is allied to *M. brevis*, *M. drucei* and *M. pygmaea*. From these species *M. glauca* can be distinguished by the biennial to perennial habit, glaucous-green to grey leaf colour, the sparse, erect, stiff and short calyx hairs, and by the very broadly ovate nutlets (seeds).

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic, North and South Islands. In the North Island known from one site in the southern Kaimanawa Range. In the South Island known from widely scattered sites from Canterbury, Central Otago and northern Southland.

HABITAT

Open, dry sandy, gravelly ground or clay pans. Often in wind ablated scrapes, and shows a marked preference for base rich substrates. Usually found growing in small patches often in the vicinity of scabweeds. It has also been found growing amidst *Muehlenbeckia axillaris* (Hook.f.) Endl. mats.

THREATS

Seriously threatened by weed invasion of the dry, open sites it requires.

GENUS

Myosotis



Myosotis glauca, Nevis. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* in cultivation. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis glauca (G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson)de Lange et Barkla

SYNONYMS

Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Myosotis pygmaea var. *glauca* was elevated to species rank by de Lange and Barkla in de Lange et al. (2010).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

(August-) September to December (however sporadic flowering may occur throughout the year)

FRUITING

September to January (however fruits may be found throughout the year)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed but short-lived and difficult to maintain for any length of time. Dislikes humidity.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

glauca: Bloom has thin powder

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: De, DP, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: De, DP, SP

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: NR, NStr, PF, Sp, 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

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

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MORE INFORMATION

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27 May 2026