

# Myosotis hikuwai

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## DISTRIBUTION

**South Island:** Otago.

## GENUS

Myosotis

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

Meudt, Prebble & G.M.Rogers

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

It was first collected in 2013 and has been previously referred to as 'Myosotis sp. morphologically similar to *M. glauca*' (Prebble et al. 2018), *M. aff. glauca* (a) (WELT SP104520; "Mata-Au") (de Lange et al. 2018; Prebble et al. 2022), or *M. "Mata-Au"* (Prebble et al. 2019).

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Spring annual; flowering mid-September–late November, fruiting November.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**hikuwai:** The epithet hikuwai refers to the Hikuwai Conservation Area where the only known population of this plant is from. In te reo Māori, hikuwai means 'source of a stream' and may refer to the source of the Clutha River / Mata-Au.

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

Unknown

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, OL

[Jump to current conservation status](#)



Locally common in dryland herbfield patches amongst kanuka treeland, Queenstown Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 07/12/2020, Licence: CC BY.



Locally common in dryland herbfield patches amongst kanuka treeland, Queenstown Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 07/12/2020, Licence: CC BY.

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Threatened – Regionally Endangered | Qualifiers: DPT, EF, NStr, OL, RE, 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

- e Lange P. J., Rolfe J. R., Barkla J. W., Courtney S. P., Champion P. D., Perrie L. R., Beadel S.M., Ford K. A., Breitwieser I., Schönberger I., Hindmarsh Walls R., Heenan P. B., & Ladley K 2018. *Conservation status of New Zealand indigenous vascular plants, 2017*. (Department of Conservation: Wellington, New Zealand).
- Meudt H. M., & Prebble J. M. 2018. Species limits and taxonomic revision of the bracteate–prostrate group of southern hemisphere forget-me-nots (*Myosotis*, Boraginaceae), including description of three new species endemic to New Zealand. *Australian Systematic Botany* 31, 48–105. doi:10.1071/SB17045
- Meudt, H. M., & Prebble, J. M. 2022. Morphological analyses support recognition of three new threatened species of bracteate–prostrate *Myosotis* (Boraginaceae) endemic to the South Island of Aotearoa New Zealand. *Australian Systematic Botany*, 35(5), 364–394.
- Prebble J. M., Meudt H. M., & Tate J. A., & Symonds V. V. (2018) Bolstering species delimitation in difficult species complexes by analyzing herbarium [www.publish.csiro.au/sb](http://www.publish.csiro.au/sb) Australian Systematic Botany 393 and common garden morphological data: a case study using the New Zealand native *Myosotis pygmaea* species group (Boraginaceae) and common garden morphological data: a case study using the New Zealand native *Myosotis pygmaea* species group (Boraginaceae). *Systematic Botany* 43, 266–289. doi:10.1600/036364418X697058
- Prebble J. M., Meudt H. M., Tate J. A., & Symonds V. V. 2019. Comparing and co-analysing microsatellite and morphological data for species delimitation in the New Zealand native *Myosotis pygmaea* species group (Boraginaceae). *Taxon* 68, 731–750. doi:10.1002/tax. 12096
- Prebble J. M., Symonds V. V., Tate J. A., & Meudt H. M. (2022) Taxonomic revision of the southern hemisphere pygmy forget-me-not group (*Myosotis*; Boraginaceae) based on morphological, population genetic and climate-edaphic niche modelling data. *Australian Systematic Botany* 35(1), 63–94. doi:10.1071/SB21031

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026