

Myosotis laingii

COMMON NAMES

Waiautoa forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Extinct

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rosette open, leaves few, lamina 80–150 × 10–20mm, elliptic-oblong, very gradually tapering into long-winged petiole, tip acuminate to mucronate; hairs short, fine, appressed, not overlapping, on undersurface similar but fewer, longer on sheathing leaf bases. Lateral branches erect, 150–400mm long, internodes mostly < leaves. Stem leaves few, uppermost c. 25 × 7mm, ± oblong, subacute; hairs as on rosette leaves but longer. Cymes simple, ebracteate, c. 12-flowered; internodes > calyx in fruit; pedicels c. 2mm long. Calyx 5–6mm long, lobes > ½ length, narrow, acute; hairs crowded, on lobes long and flexuous, towards base shorter and some hooked. Corolla apparently yellow (probably white when fresh fading to yellow when dry) 8–10mm diameter, tube funnelform and 5–7mm long, lobes c. 4 × 3mm, ± oblong; filaments fixed about level of scales, anthers c. 2mm long, wholly above scales; style very slender, > 2× calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlets not seen.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis laeta, *M. traversii* from which *M. laingii* differs by having large yellow rather than white flowers with anther tips protruding above petals and few leaves on flower stem.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Marlborough. Known only from collections made from terraces adjacent to the Clarence River near Lake Tennyson. There are also a few specimens of it gathered by J. Buchanan from there

HABITAT

River terraces, 800–1400m a.s.l.

THREATS

Myosotis laingii is known only with certainty from a handful of specimens collected between 1860–1912. It has not been collected since.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae



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



Habitat. Photographer: Cathy Jones, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Myosotis laingii Cheeseman

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

Specimens with seed are unknown.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

No information available.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

laingii: Named after Robert Malcolm Laing (1865-1941), a botanist and phycologist from Canterbury, who focused on Banks Peninsula, the Canterbury foothills, Campbell Island, the Spencer Mountains and Norfolk Island.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Extinct

2012 | Extinct

2009 | Extinct

2004 | Data Deficient

[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

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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25 May 2026