

Myosotis macrantha

COMMON NAME

bronze forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

Exarrhena macrantha Hook.f., *Myosotis macrantha* var. *diversa*
G.Simpson et J.S.Thomson, *Myosotis macrantha* var. *pulchra* Cheeseman,
Myosotis macrantha var. *westlandica* Petrie

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis macrantha (Hook.f.) Benth. et Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOMAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic: South Island: Nelson to south-western Otago and northern Southland

HABITAT

Alpine. Common in damp sites within grassland, on rocky ground, on cliff faces and rock outcrops



Lake Peel, Cobb, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Birch Hill Stream, Mt Cook, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

FEATURES

Robust, tufted, grey-green, green to dark green, perennial herb. Rosettes few or many, leaves obovate, obovate-lanceolate to lanceolate-spathulate, 30-120 × 6-20 mm, narrowing rather abruptly to subacute tip and gradually to broad petiole almost as long as lamina; hairs tapering and flexuous, appressed or spreading, on undersurface shorter, sparser, often appressed, retrorse except sts at tip. Lateral branches few per rosette, ascending to erect, up to 300 mm long, internodes usually < leaves. Stem-leaves decreasing upwards, lower ones oblong, uppermost c.20 × 6 mm, lanceolate with truncate base and subacute tip; hairs long, fine, usually crowded and appressed on upper surface, on undersurface sparser, shorter and more spreading, often retrorse towards base of lower stem-leaves. Cymes ebracteate, usually simple or once branched, 8-flowered, up to 70 mm long in fruit, internodes < calyx in fruit; pedicels very short, Calyx 6-9 mm long, lobes usually slightly > 1/2 length, obtuse, rather broad; hairs long and spreading near top, medium and hooked about middle, short and spreading or retrorse near base, short appressed hairs throughout. Corolla yellow, orange, brownish orange to almost black, narrow-funnelform, 6-8 mm diameter, tube up to 10 mm. (occasionally 15 mm) to level of scales, more to sinus of lobes; scales small or absent, sometimes variously developed in one flower, lobes rounded, c.3.0 × 2.5 mm, not widely spreading; filaments broad, fixed just below scales (if any), about equal to anthers which are 1.5-2.2 mm long and wholly above scale-level; style at least 2× calyx in fruit, stigma capitate. Nutlet 2.4-3.5 × 1.4-2.0 mm long, ovate-elliptic to elliptic, black-brown to black.

SIMILAR TAXA

Myosotis macrantha is a rather variable but extremely distinctive species easily recognised by its robust growth habit and colourful flowers which can be fixed or grade on a plant from yellow through orange to orange-brown or almost black. It is closely allied to *Myosotis arnoldii* from which it differs by the grey-green, green to dark green (rather than silvery) colour of the vegetative parts, by the rosette leaves which are broader than the stem leaves (in *M. arnoldii* rosette and stem leaves are of equal width), and by the presence of retrorse rather than straight hairs on the leaves. The flowers of *Myosotis macrantha* differ from *M. arnoldii* only in that their lobes seem to spread more widely (and they show a greater range of colours). Vegetatively *Myosotis macrantha* is impossible to distinguish from the narrow-range endemic *M. explanata* though the long narrow strongly coloured flowers of *M. macrantha* with the anthers exerted wholly beyond the ill-developed scales differ greatly from the shorter, salverform, pure white flowers of *M. explanata* whose anthers are scarcely exerted and whose filaments are positioned below the large scales.

FLOWERING

December - March

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

FRUITING

February - May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Somewhat difficult. Can be grown in a rock garden or alpine house but results vary. Like all indigenous *Myosotis* this species is sensitive to humidity and prone to fungal attacks from mildews and rusts in muggy weather. In some parts of New Zealand, such as the South Island this species can be easily cultivated.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

macrantha: Big flowered

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Government Printer, Wellington.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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(Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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