

Myosotis matthewsii

COMMON NAMES

Matthews's forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: EF, OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bright green, yellow-green to dark-green, widely creeping (rooting along extreme bases of lateral branches and from within rosette leaves), mostly sprawling annual to short-lived perennial herb.. Rosette-leaves variable in size 10–40 × 6–20 mm, lamina orbicular, mucronate, petiole 10–40 mm long, sharply defined, very slender; hairs short, stiff, sparse, appressed, notably sparser below. Lateral branches, usually repeatedly branched, often interwoven, ascending to erect, up to 600 mm long, leaves mostly < internodes; branch hairs short, tightly appressed. Stem-leaves orbicular to rotund, petioles becoming progressively shorter and broader up branches with those leaves associated with flowers almost sessile, very broadly ovate, up to 15×8 mm; indumentum as for rosette leaves. Cyme ill-defined, obscured by leaves, 6-10-flowered, up to 180 mm long, arising mostly from above the highest branch. Flowers subtended by, opposite to, or just below a leaf. Pedicels 4-8 mm long. Calyx 2-3 mm long, very deeply divided, lobes narrow and spreading in fruit exposing nutlets; hairs short, stiff, appressed, confined to margins and midribs of lobes, crowded on base. Corolla white, 5-8 mm diameter, very openly campanulate, tube 1.5 mm long, scales minute, lobes oblong, c.2.5 × 1.5 mm; filaments fixed below scales, as long as lobes; anthers c.0.5 mm long, yellow; style 4-6 mm in fruit, stigma conspicuously capitate. Nutlets brown, 1.4-1.9 × 0.9-1.5 mm, elliptic to broadly elliptic brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very close to *Myosotis spatulata* and perhaps a form of that variable species. Matthew's forget-me-not differs from that species by the near absence of roots from the lateral branches (roots when present confined to the very base of the branches), short and close appressed rather than somewhat spreading and untidy stem hairs; by the uniformly short and straight calyx hairs (of variable size in *Myosotis spatulata* with the largest often hooked), larger flowers with the corolla broadly open rather than narrow, and by the capitate rather than clavate stigma. However, intergrading forms exist and the status of Matthew's forget-me-not needs critical study.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (western from near Kaitaia to Warawara Forest)



Photographer: Marley Ford, Date taken: 02/12/2023, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Warawara. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/01/2009, Licence: CC BY.

HABITAT

Coastal to lowland near seepages and on damp colluvium at the base of cliffs, on damp ground around water fall plunge pools and on the margins of slow-flowing streams. It has also been recorded from poorly drained ground on the margins of walking tracks.

THREATS

Matthew's forget-me-not has gone extinct from most of its range and is now only known with certainty from a single site. Populations have been lost mostly through land development and the associated spread of weeds. However, because this species is easily confused with *Myosotis spathulata* it is possible that some northern populations attributed to that species may on closer inspection prove to be Matthew's forget-me-not.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis matthewsii L.B.Moore

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1961)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October – January

FRUITING

November - February

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. However, inclined to be short-lived and prone to attack from rusts, blights and aphids. Difficult to maintain.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

matthewsii: After Mathews

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF, OL

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Endangered | Qualifiers: DP, EF, RR

2004 | Range Restricted

[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 by NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description 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-matthewsii/>

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