

Myosotis petiolata

COMMON NAMES

forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: OL

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CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, tufted, bronzed-leaf perennial herb, forming rather open patches up to 1 m. Rosette leaves 8-15(-35) x 10(-25) mm, orbicular, apex apiculate, rarely retuse, borne on long, slender petioles; hairs short, stiff, straight and closely appressed, widely spaced, with longer fringing hairs on sheathing leaf-base. Lateral branches many, rather widely spaced, somewhat trailing, suberect to erect 50-100 mm long, producing offset rosettes; internodes = or > than leaf length. Stem-leaves narrowly oval, upper ones sessile, apiculate, hairs as for rosette leaves. Inflorescence a simple, many-flowered cyme, 40-120 mm long. Calyx 1.5-2(-3) mm, lobes cut almost to base, narrowly acute, spreading in fruit; hairs sparse, short, stiff, like those on leaves. Corolla white, 6-8 mm diam., tube flaring widely, corolla lobes oblong, spreading, scales about level to calyx-tips; filaments long. anthers prominently exerted beyond corolla; style up to 3 x calyx length in fruit. No description of nutlets is known.

SIMILAR TAXA

M. petiolata is most likely to be confused with *M. forsteri*, and non-flowering *M. spathulata*, two species which are superficially similar and can grow in similar habitats. From both *M. petiolata* can be easily separated by its much larger flowers which have prominently exerted anthers and the often brownish leaf colouration. Field recognition: forming loose brownish coloured patches in which individual rosettes are difficult to distinguish

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island. Formerly recorded from several North Island Hawkes Bay (Allan 1961) localities and at one South Island site near Takaka, North West Nelson. A recent re-circumscription restricts *M. petiolata* to the eastern North Island where it is known now from only one site in the Te Waka Range, inland Hawke's Bay. Records from East Cape can be attributed to *M. pottsiana* (Meudt et al. 2013)

HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest. Apparently confined to limestone outcrops and associated soils.

THREATS

Based on herbarium specimens and a preliminary examination of the few wild populations known, *M. petiolata* would appear to be a biologically sparse entity favouring base-rich substrates. Because there are few plants known from the wild, little is known about this plants ecology, and it may be vulnerable to weed invasions it is currently classified as Nationally Critical.

GENUS

Myosotis



Limestone bluff near Napier - Taupo Road.

Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis petiolata Hook.f.

TAXONOMIC NOTES

South Island plants referred to *Myosotis petiolata* do not appear to be closely related to either *M. petiolata* s.s. (Meudt et al. 2013).

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - February

FRUITING

Unknown

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown with difficulty from rooted pieces and fresh seed. Requires specialist knowledge and care to maintain. Tends to be rather short-lived.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

petiolata: Having leaf-stalks

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = c.36$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

2004 | Threatened – Nationally Critical

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

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.

Meudt, H.M.; Prebble, J.M.; Stanley, R.J.; Thorsen, M.J. 2013: Morphological and amplified fragment length polymorphism (AFLP) data show that New Zealand endemic *Myosotis petiolata* (Boraginaceae) comprises three rare and threatened species. *Australian Systematic Botany* 26: 210-232.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared by NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description subsequently published in de Lange et al. (2010). For a more recent assessment see Meudt et al. (2013).

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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