

# Myosotis pottsiana

## COMMON NAME

Potts's forget-me-not

## SYNONYMS

*Myosotis petiolata* L.B.Moore var. *pottsiana*

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis pottsiana* (L.B.Moore) Meudt, Prebble, R.J.Stanley & Thorsen

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: Ef, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | Threatened – Nationally Critical | Qualifiers: DP, EF

2004 | Data Deficient

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Known from scattered sites in the southern Raukumara Range (Waioeka Gorge) and from the Galatea Hills, and adjacent, western portion of Te Urewera.

## HABITAT

A species of riverside banks and gorges, usually in areas prone to occasional flooding

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short-lived, loosely branched, hairy perennial herb. Petioles slender, 20–40mm long, narrowly winged margins fringed by long, spreading hairs. Rosette leaves 15–25 × 10–17mm, orbicular to spatulate, leaf apex obtuse, usually apiculate, dark green above with darker green or maroon veins, pale below, lamina surfaces sparsely covered in widely spaced, short, straight, stiff, ± appressed hairs. Lateral branches occasional, 60–350mm long, producing offset rosettes. Stem leaves broad to narrow oval, becoming smaller toward branch apices. Inflorescence simple, flowers without subtending leafy bracts. Calyx 3–5mm long, lobed almost to base, lobes narrowly acute, spreading in fruit, hairs short and stiff. Corolla white, 9–12mm diameter, tube cylindrical, twice as long as wide, corolla scales well above calyx tips; stamens shorter than corolla. Nutlets 1.2–1.4 × 1.2–1.9mm, ovate to broadly ovate, glossy black-brown to black.



No caption. Photographer: Bec Stanley, Licence: CC BY-SA.



In cultivation in the 1769 Garden - Waikeru Ecosanctuary, Tai Rawhiti / East Coast. Photographer: Malcolm Rutherford, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Myosotis pansa* which occurs as two subspecies on the west coast of North Island from Muriwai to northern Taranaki. *Myosotis pansa* differs from *M. pottsiana* by larger, wide funnel-like flowers (corolla 10-15 mm diameter), and by corolla scales at or below the calyx tips. *Myosotis pottsiana* is more likely to be confused with the vegetatively similar *M. forsteri* which grows in similar habitats. Flowering specimens of *M. forsteri* can be distinguished by their much smaller flowers with scarcely projecting anthers and style. Field recognition: tufted rosette of green mottled leaves on long thin petioles and plants often grouped into loose colonies

## FLOWERING

Flowers can be present throughout the year but are more commonly seen from spring through summer

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## FRUITING

Seed can be present throughout the year.

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from seed. Plants are short-lived but readily set seed. In cultivation this species often "naturalises" in gardens.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

## 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).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

Bowen, D. 1985. A rare experience rediscovering *Myosotis petiolata* var. *pottsiana*. Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin, 42: 61-63.

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.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotis pottsiana* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-pottsiana/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

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