

Myosotis pottsiana

COMMON NAMES

Potts's forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

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 cylindric, 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.

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

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

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae



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



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

AUTHORITY

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

SYNONYMS

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

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

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

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.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally available from specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

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

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

2004 | Data Deficient

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

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.

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-pottsiana/>

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