

Myosotis pulvinaris

COMMON NAME

cushion forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

Myosotis hectorii Hook.f.

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis pulvinaris Hook.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOPUL

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island: Central Otago

HABITAT

Alpine to high alpine. Found in fell field, cushion bog, on the margins of solifluction lobes and in fine, stable scree. Rarely present in rubble at the bases of schist outcrops and tors.

FEATURES

Many-branched tufted silvery-grey to grey-green perennial forming compact rounded cushions up to 100 mm diameter, adventitious roots from branches. Stems 10-30 mm long, crowded, more or less erect, closely covered with imbricating leaves, the whole twig 5-10 mm diameter. Leaves c. 5-7 × 3-5 mm, the very broad-oblong lamina slightly narrowed to membranous sheathing base, tip very broad-obtuse; hairs long, silky, crowded, more or less appressed. Flowering lateral branches very short, often hidden, with a few narrow oblong leaves surrounding the solitary terminal almost sessile flower. Calyx c.3 mm long, lobes cut to half calyx length, subacute, finely hairy within, long soft hairs forming a complete cover outside. Corolla white, c.6 mm diameter, tube 4-5 mm long, lobes c.2 × 2 mm, broadly rounded, flat, overlapping at sinus; filaments short, anthers up to 1.5 mm long, tips protruding just above rather large scales; style 2-3× calyx, stigma capitate. Nutlets 1.3-1.9 × 0.8-1.1 mm, ovate-elliptic to oblong-elliptic, dark black.



Old Man range, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Cultivated, ex Richardson Mts. Photographer: John Barkla

SIMILAR TAXA

The compact, silvery-grey to grey-green, hairy cushion-forming growth habit of *Myosotis pulvinaris* is unique to this species and it is unlikely to be confused with any other except the yellow-flowered *M. uniflora*. From sterile specimens of that species, the white-flowered *M. pulvinaris* can be easily distinguished by its boardly spatulate rather than narrowly elliptic leaves.

FLOWERING

November - January

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

pulvinaris: From the Latin pulvinar 'a cushion' and -aris 'resembling', meaning resembling a cushion i.e. convex or rather flattened

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially Available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange. 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

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

MORE INFORMATION

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