

Myosotis pulvinaris

COMMON NAMES

cushion forget-me-not

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

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 broadly spatulate rather than narrowly elliptic leaves.

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.

GENUS

Myosotis

FAMILY

Boraginaceae



Old Man range, November. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cultivated, ex Richardson Mts. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

AUTHORITY

Myosotis pulvinaris Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Myosotis hectorii Hook.f.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

December - April

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Should not be removed from the wild.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially Available

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

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

NVS CODE

MYOPUL

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NS, NStr, Sp, TL
[Help](#)

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange. Description based on Allan (1961).

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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/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026